

**Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey  
Reconnaissance Survey Final Report  
of**

**Stanton County, Nebraska**

**prepared for**

**Nebraska State Historical Society**

**State Historic Preservation Office**

**by**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>INTRODUCTION.</b> . . . . .	1
Northeast Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Area. . . . .	2
Preservation Biases. . . . .	3
Numerical Summary of Stanton County Reconnaissance Survey. . . .	5
<b>HISTORIC OVERVIEW</b> . . . . .	6
Physical Description . . . . .	6
Original Inhabitants . . . . .	7
County History . . . . .	7
Settlement Incentives. . . . .	7
County History . . . . .	8
Agriculture. . . . .	12
Final Comments . . . . .	14
Bibliography . . . . .	15
<b>GENERAL SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS</b> . . . . .	18
Introduction . . . . .	18
General Summary Part 1 . . . . .	18
A Topical Discussion and Preliminary Inventory of Stanton	
County Historic Properties. . . . .	18
General Summary Part 2 . . . . .	52
A Supratype Summary of Stanton County House Types . . . . .	52
Stanton County House Types. . . . .	56
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK</b> . . . . .	63
National Register Recommendations. . . . .	63
Potential Thematic Studies/Multiple Property Nominations . . . .	63
1. Ethnic Groups in Stanton County . . . . .	64
2. Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production . . . .	66
<b>APPENDIX 1.</b> . . . . .	69
<b>APPENDIX 2.</b> . . . . .	82
<b>APPENDIX 3.</b> . . . . .	84



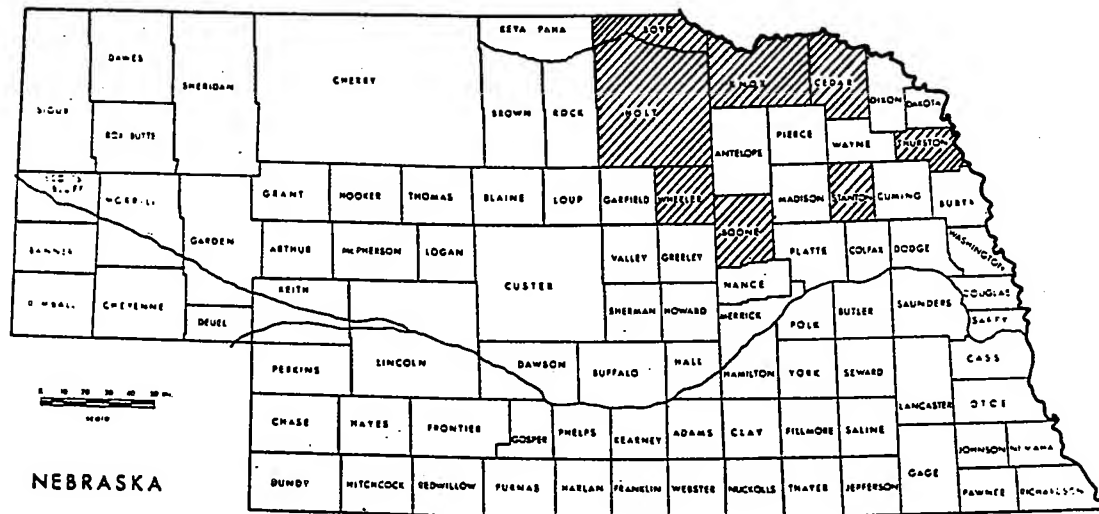


## INTRODUCTION

In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act was passed by the 89th United States Congress and subsequently signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. With this Act, the Secretary of the Interior was called upon to expand and maintain a national register of historic places and give maximum encouragement to state governments to develop statewide historic preservation programs of their own. The Act recognized that one of the prerequisites for an effective national preservation program was the identification of historic resources across the country through comprehensive statewide surveys. Thus, state historic preservation offices were made responsible under the National Historic Preservation Act for decisions concerning the preservation of historic properties in their states.

The manifestation of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act for Nebraska came in 1967 when state legislation directed the Nebraska State Historical Society to oversee the preservation of historical properties and conduct a comprehensive statewide historic survey. For this, the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) was formed and is conducted by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) as a part of the Nebraska State Historical Society. The Nebraska Historic Building Survey is an ongoing statewide study designed to identify and evaluate properties within a selected area to determine whether they may be of historic, architectural, archeological, or cultural significance. The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office serves as the central repository for the collected information and becomes the focal point for preservation planning decisions.

Starting with a limited survey of 125 sites, the NeHBS has now documented approximately 32,000 properties and completed preliminary fieldwork in over half of Nebraska's 93 counties. The latest effort of the NeSHPO to document historic resources is the completion of the Northeast Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey.



### Northeast Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Area

Save America's Heritage was selected by the NeSHPO and engaged in a contractual agreement to conduct the Northeast Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey. This survey consists of the completion of preliminary fieldwork in eight northeast Nebraska counties. These counties are Boyd, Holt, Wheeler, Boone, Knox, Cedar, Thurston, and Stanton. The survey of these counties was initiated in September of 1987 and was completed in June of 1988. With the completion of the eight-county project, northeast Nebraska is the first region of the state to be completed under the NeSHPO's recently stated five-year plan targeting preliminary statewide coverage for 1991-92.

The primary objective of the survey was to provide a preliminary characterization of the historic resources extant in the northeast Nebraska region. The effort to document properties contributing to the context of Nebraska's historic architecture produces information which not only serves as a resource in preservation management, but also expresses a genuine concern for the history of the Great Plains built environment.

In addition to this, there are several other objectives which enhance both the importance of information generated by the survey and the importance of the survey itself. First among these is the concept of establishing the setting of Nebraska's multi-contextual historic architecture. Each historic building survey performed by the NeSHPO generates information which contributes to a statewide knowledge and builds a background which future survey information can be evaluated with. Secondly, it was the objective of the historic building survey to identify specific properties or geographic areas which, in the event of an intensive survey, would contribute useful information to the multi-context setting. Further objectives of the northeast Nebraska survey included the identification of specific building types, the identification of construction methods which related to or were unique to Nebraska's historic built environment, the identification of sites worthy of National Register listing, and the expansion of knowledge regarding ethnic settlement, building technologies, and architectural images.

### Preservation Biases

It is Save America's Heritage belief that people, and the places in which they live, are the raw materials of history. A community, its inhabitants and its development over an extended period of time are proper subjects for our contemplation, for it is through such studies that we gain a more sympathetic comprehension of the present.

The public mention of a "historic building survey" often fails to produce a collective image or understanding. A strong social awareness towards preserving our built environment does exist in the rehabilitation of aged urban districts, but the notion of recording historical structures as a preservation activity remains a publicly obscure concept. Fortunately, this obscurity is due to a lack of awareness rather than a lack of genuine concern. Communicating the importance of this activity as a documentation of our Great Plains history cannot be stressed enough.

Furthermore, it is also the opinion of Save America's Heritage that such surveys are a necessary tool in the recording of Great Plains settlement. The demise of Nebraska's rural architecture is directly

linked to the decline of the rural-based population. In the year 1900, 76.3% of Nebraska's population was found in rural towns or on the farms.<sup>1</sup> However, by 1980 the rural-based population has dropped nearly 40 percentage points to the current figure of 37.1% (see Table 1).

Table 1. Total Population.

Nebraska		Selected Years	
Year	Population	Percent of Total	
		Urban	Rural
1900	1,066,300	23.7	76.3
1910	1,192,214	26.1	73.9
1920	1,296,372	31.3	68.7
1930	1,377,963	35.3	64.7
1940	1,315,834	39.1	60.9
1950	1,325,510	46.9	53.1
1960	1,411,921	54.3	45.7
1970	1,485,333	61.5	38.5
1980	1,569,825	62.9	37.1

<sup>1</sup>Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1980.

The affect on the historic built environment has been devastating. The number of houses now exceeds the demand and the older perhaps less appealing buildings are not re-inhabited. The buildings then deteriorate and are either dismantled or collapse. Consequently, there exists an increasing decline in the "pool" of historic building resources. Compounding the demise of these rural resources is the current decline of the agricultural economy. The prospect of farming as a profitable future for the next generations is now less desirable. This, in turn, contributes to the decreasing rural population and re-inhabitation of existing historic buildings. This is exemplified by the fact that 36.4% (47 of 129) of all farmsteads documented by the survey in Stanton County consisted of either abandoned farms or farmhouses.

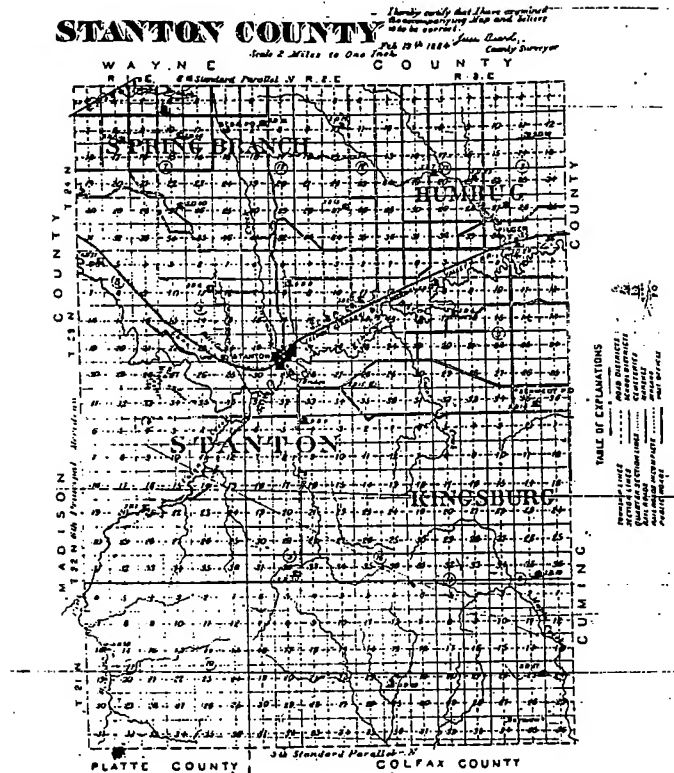
The enumeration of social changes affecting historic resources is endless. It is clear, however, that the result of these changes coupled with the diminishing affects of time substantiate the need for historic

building surveys. It is through such surveys that we not only record the built settlement of Nebraska, but reach a fuller understanding of our present world.

Numerical Summary of Stanton County Reconnaissance Survey

<u>Stanton County</u>	<u>Total properties</u>	<u>Contributing buildings</u>	<u>Contributing structures</u>	<u>Contributing objects</u>	<u>Contributing sites</u>
ST00: Rural	150	698	26	24	3
ST01: Pilger	80	109	0	0	0
ST02: Stanton	<u>114</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	344	974	26	25	3

## HISTORIC OVERVIEW



### Physical Description

Stanton County is located in northeast Nebraska. It is bounded by Wayne County on the north, Cuming County on the east, Colfax and Platte Counties on the south, and Madison County on the west. The county is rectangular in shape and comprises a total area of 428 square miles making it one of the smallest Nebraska counties.

Stanton County consists of areas of bottomlands and stream terraces, loessial uplands, mixed sandy and loamy uplands, and a small area of sandhills. The loessial uplands comprise the major soil type in the county. This soil type is suited to agricultural production as it retains moisture and plant nutrients well.

Mixed sandy and loamy uplands are transitional soil areas and are primarily located south of the Elkhorn River but are also found in the northwestern corner of the county. These soils are a mixture of the loessial soils and the sandhills soils. The small area of sandhills land is located mainly in two areas south and southeast of the town of Stanton.

The bottomlands are located mainly along the Elkhorn River and its major tributaries. They range from 1/2 to 3 miles wide. Stream terraces are adjacent to the bottomlands and are also along the major creeks. The Elkhorn River, the Platte River, and their tributaries provide drainage to the county.

The climate is typical of northeast Nebraska and well-suited to grain and livestock production. The area receives approximately 27 inches of precipitation annually, 80% of which falls in April through September during the growing season for most crops. The average frost-free season is 152 days.

### Original Inhabitants

The Pawnee lived in the region around the Elkhorn River. They, the Omaha, Ponca, and Sioux used and fought over the rich Elkhorn Valley hunting grounds (Owens, p. 5). By the 1850s the Sioux had asserted their claim to the territory north of the Platte River. A series of treaties in the 1850s through the 1870s further and further restricted Indian rights, opening more and more land to settlement by whites.

### Settlement Incentives

The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 opened the territory of what is now Nebraska to settlement by whites. Nebraska was organized as a state in 1867. The general directions of settlement proceeded from the southeast corner of the state to the north along the Missouri River and westward along the Platte Valley. The rich farmlands of Stanton County beckoned prospective settlers after the close of the Civil War with immigration speeding up after the coming of the railroad in 1879. The federal government did much to encourage settlement of frontier lands. The Pre-Emption Act of 1841, the original cornerstone of the nation's land policy, was the method by which settlers of territorial Nebraska secured their land.

The Homestead Act of 1862 provided for up to a quarter section of "free" land to heads of families who had paid the \$10 filing fee and resided on or cultivated the land for five consecutive years. The Timber Culture Act, approved in 1873, was supplemental to the Homestead Act. It

provided that a homesteader could acquire an additional quarter section by planting 40 acres to trees and caring for them for 10 (later eight) years.

Along with the purchase of land from the railroads or private individuals, these federal acts made it possible for new settlers to acquire the land necessary to support their families.

### County History

Between the years 1856 and 1862 the area which now comprises Stanton County was included in IZARD County. IZARD County included 16 townships. The name of the county was changed to Stanton in 1862. Stanton County was organized three years later and at this time the four eastern townships were added to Cuming County. Since that time the county boundaries have remained unchanged.

Cattlemen, hunters, and Indians inhabited what is now Stanton County prior to 1865. Range land was free and cattle raising profitable due to the luxuriant growth of prairie grasses which covered the county. At the time the county was organized in 1867 there were only 14 permanent settlers in what is now the county. The "assessed valuation of property was \$855 personal and \$9,700 real" (Andreas, p. 1436).

The population began to increase rapidly between 1867 and 1869 and as settlement pressure increased, cattlemen were pushed further westward. Settlers first located in the county's bottomlands where water and fuel were easily obtainable. Later arrivals spread settlement into the uplands. The railroad was completed across the county by 1880 which increased the numbers of persons settling in the county. By 1890, all the desirable land had been settled under the homestead and preemption laws.

As settlers began arriving in Stanton County, they were anxious to establish their farms. For those arriving with little cash, homesteading was the answer. Others, with more capital, opted to purchase their land outright. The Burlington and Missouri Railroad owned 3,510 acres in Stanton County as part of their government grant and this land was made available to those who had the cash (Owens, p. 25).

The first permanent town in Stanton County was established on Humbug Creek, a tributary of the Elkhorn River, in 1865. Before either of the



county's two towns were platted, this little settlement boasted a store and log schoolhouse. Unfortunately, this early little settlement did not grow into a town which remains today.

Stanton, the county seat, was designated as such by election in 1869. Until then, the proposed town was only open space in the center of the county. After the election, there was sufficient confidence in the location to transact county business there. As a result, the town began to grow. It was officially platted in 1871. The business district of Stanton is generally located to the west of the original town. This change was due to the location of the rail depot, around which businesses tended to locate.

The town grew very slowly until the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad came through from Wisner in 1879. In the early 1880s there were 29 firms doing business in the community. The Stanton County Bank opened its doors in 1880 and for a number of years was the only bank in the county. The Graves Lumber Yard which opened in 1879 was one of the busiest business places in the county during the years of rapid settlement (Andreas, p. 1439).

By the end of the 1890s, the town was well established. The Methodist, Baptist, Congregational, Lutheran, and German Lutherans all had established congregations in the community. Fraternal associations such as the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and a Good Templar Lodge were holding meetings as well. The Odd Fellows had recently completed a two-story brick hall, reported to be one of the attractive buildings in town (Some Nebraska Gems, p. 5).

Pilger, located 10 miles northeast of Stanton, is the only other town in the county. It was platted in 1880 and named after Peter Pilger, owner of the original townsite. The first business in the town was a general store which opened in the first year of the town's life.

The Sioux City and Pacific Railroad came through the town, thus making it a desirable place to settle. In the early 1880s the town boasted a depot, general store, hardware store, lumber yard, and coal depot (Andreas, p. 1440).

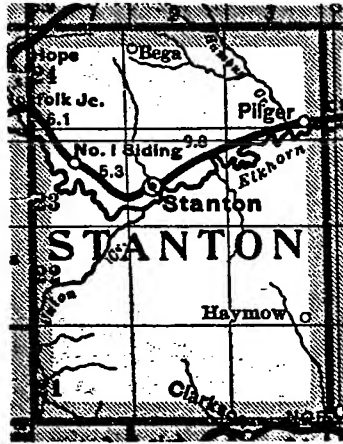


Fig. 1. 1907 Location of the railroad in Stanton County after Official Nebraska State Railway Map.

### The People

The ethnic diversity of the people who settled and made their homes and livelihoods there are an important part of the history of Stanton County. The early settlers were largely U.S.-born persons from the eastern and east-central states (Hayes, p. 3). In the 1870 and 1880 census years, 64% of the population were U.S.-born. As immigration slowed and children of the foreign born were born in the U.S., the figure increased to 80% of the population U.S.-born in 1880. The foreign born in Stanton County came from over 15 foreign countries, adding richness to the social fabric of the county.

The information on numbers of foreign born were taken from Wayne Wheeler's compilation of census data. Since no detailed census analysis was performed, the locations of various ethnic settlements within the county must be inferred primarily from local histories and other secondary sources. Evidence of the various ethnic groups' presence is indicated by the institutions which they founded. Churches, cemeteries, and fraternal organizations are examples of such institutions. In some cases, secondary sources mention specific ethnic groups as having settled in a particular area. In any event, the information contained in the following section is far from complete. A precinct-by-precinct census analysis should be

performed to obtain a more precise picture of ethnic settlement within the county.

The Germans were the most numerous foreign-born group in Stanton County as in Nebraska as a whole. In the 1880 census German-born persons comprised 23% of the total county population and 64% of the foreign-born population. In 1890 they comprised 68% of the foreign born in the county. In succeeding years the percentages fell to 49% of the foreign-born population in 1910.

A large number of Germans settled along Humbug Creek near Pilger and along Union Creek south of Stanton (Atlas of Stanton Co., n.p.). Many of these people had originally settled in Wisconsin but had found that area too densely forested. They found the Elkhorn Valley lands much better suited to their needs (Owens, p. 15).

Wheeler lists only 23 Bohemian-born persons in 1890. By 1900, a total of 378 are listed making them the second largest foreign-born group in the county. No Bohemians or Czechs are listed in the data for 1910; however, the Czechs are the second largest foreign-born group in 1920. It is probably safe to assume they were also the second largest foreign-born group in 1910 as well.

Bohemians settled in the southern part of the county near Haymow and the town of Stanton. This was really an extension of the Bohemian settlement in Colfax County to the south. Many who settled near Haymow had originally settled in Dodge and Cuming Counties (Rosicky, p. 239).

There was a strong Scandinavian presence in Stanton County. Swedes were the most numerous, accompanied by smaller numbers of Danes and Norwegians. Wheeler combines Swedes and Norwegians in his 1880 figures and this number represented the third largest ethnic group in the county at this time. In 1890 and 1900 Swedes were the third largest foreign-born group in the county. By 1910 the number of Danes was larger than the number of Swedes in the county. This is consistent with immigration patterns for the nation as a whole with the Danes being later in arrival than their Scandinavian brothers.

Several sources mention the general locations of Scandinavian settlement in Stanton County. It has been reported numerous Danish

Lutherans lived in the vicinity of Pilger (Owens, p. 61). A colony of Swedes founded the Bega settlement in the northern part of the county (Atlas of Stanton Co., n.p.). The Norwegians tended to mix readily with the Americans; however, there is a Norwegian Cemetery located in Elkhorn Precinct (Owens, p. 63).

### Agriculture

Nebraska is a large state with a variety of soil types and differing climatic conditions which make it necessary for the farmer to adapt farming practices to local conditions. It should also be noted there are few distinct areas where abrupt changes in farming practices are evidenced.

Several authors associated with the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture (Hedges and Elliott; Garey; Williams and Murfield) have described systems of farming in Nebraska to refer to areas with a high degree of uniformity in the type of farming practiced and the economic and environmental conditions of the defined area. Stanton County is included in the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production (NNILP) area. In this area crops are grown more for their value as livestock feed than as a cash crop.

The loess soils of the county are able to retain a large amount of water and plant nutrients as well which make them suitable for growing a number of crop types. The cropping system consists of corn, alfalfa, plus some wheat and oats. These are grown due to their adaptability to environmental conditions and their appropriateness as livestock feed.

Sod corn was generally the first crop grown by the settlers. As settlers came in to northeast Nebraska, they brought with them the same agricultural practices they had known in the Midwest Cornbelt. (Fite, p. 246). The corn, as well as game and beef, provided sustenance to the early settlers. As conditions on the homesteads became more stable, wheat, oats, barley, and garden vegetables were grown (Hayes p. 5). By the end of the 19th century, real advances in scientific farming began to have an impact on production. Crop rotation, seed selection, higher

quality livestock through selective breeding, and research into plant and animal diseases were advances in agricultural practice.

Two advances were very important to intensive livestock production. A serum to prevent hog cholera resulted in an increase in production. The other highly significant advance was in the use of alfalfa in rotation with corn to maintain soil fertility. This allowed livestock production to be practiced on a more intensive level (Sweedlum, p. 207).

Corn has been the leading crop in Stanton County since farming began. Wheat was an early important crop and was second only to corn until about 1900. It was utilized as both a food and cash crop. Another reason for growing wheat was that settlers came from regions where wheat was a profitable crop. Yields and profits were low, however, because most of the early settlers grew spring wheat which was ill-adapted to the environment.

As farmers became better established, livestock became an important source of revenue. Consequently, more feed grains were needed. Oats, which were an important feed crop as well as well-adapted to soil and climatic conditions, came to be grown more and more extensively (Hayes, p. 5).

By the end of the 1930s, the intensive livestock system of farming was in full flower with northeast Nebraska having more livestock per section than any other area of the state (Hedges and Elliott, pp. 36-38).

Cattle and hog feeding are the main livestock enterprises. The value of livestock has increased through time. By 1969, Williams and Murfield report over 90% of farms reporting some kind of livestock with receipts from livestock and livestock products accounting for over 80% of average farm income (p. 33). In recent years, soybeans have become increasingly important as a cash crop. In 1970 there were 16,500 acres planted to soybeans. By 1977 the acreage had increased to 27,800 planted to soybeans (Hammond, p. 4).

The acreage of irrigated crop land has also been on the increase. In 1970 there were 9,300 acres of irrigated crop land but by 1977 the acreage had increased to 24,000 acres. Wells are the major source of water for irrigation but some is pumped from the Elkhorn River. The use of

center-pivot systems caused major increases in the number of wells drilled for irrigation (Hammond, p. 4).

Data from the Census of Agriculture for the years 1910 (p. 37), 1935 (p. 333), and 1982 (p. 712) reveal the number of farms has dropped substantially, particularly between 1935 and 1982. In 1910 there were 1,137 farms in Stanton County. By 1935 the number had increased to 1,249 but by 1982 there were only 712 farms in the county. As the number of farms increased, the average size decreased and conversely as the number of farms decreased the average size increased.

The average size of a Stanton County farm in 1910 was 231 acres. The number had decreased to 212 acres in 1935. As the number of farms in the county decreased, the average size increased to 340 acres. The average farm size in each of the reported years is below, and recently, well below the average for the entire state which is 746 acres. These numbers reflect the intensive nature of agriculture in the county.

#### Final Comments

The Stanton County economy is, and always has been, based on agriculture. The agricultural base is characterized by intensive livestock production with more grain grown for feed than as cash grain. The two towns in the county which serve the rural population have remained relatively small. The county was populated by people from many states and foreign countries who came together to establish the rich social fabric which remains today.

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## GENERAL SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

### Introduction

The objectives associated with the Stanton County Historic Buildings Survey were to provide a preliminary characterization of the historic resources within the county and to produce information which will serve as a reference in the preservation management of these resources. A post-survey evaluation of these goals reveals that the Historic Buildings Survey of Stanton County was indeed a highly successful project. This success can be expressed in two quantifiable translations. These are, quite simply, numerically and geographically. Each street of both Stanton County communities and nearly every rural road was surveyed using reconnaissance survey methods. The numbers produced by the survey are indicative of this. A total of 1,028 contributing buildings, structures, objects, and sites were documented on 344 individual properties. The survey canvassed 174,720 acres (273 square miles) and identified 50 properties potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

For the purpose of organization, a more specific summary of the historic properties in Stanton County has been broken into two main parts. These are:

1. A Topical Discussion and Preliminary Inventory of the Stanton County historic properties judged to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and
2. A supratypological summary of the predominant house types recorded in Stanton County.

### General Summary Part 1:

#### **A Topical Discussion and Preliminary Inventory of Stanton County Historic Properties**

The following discussion consists of a topical summary and Preliminary Inventory of the historic properties documented during the Stanton County Historic Buildings Survey. This discussion is arranged according to the Topical Listing of Historic Contexts authored by the Nebraska State

Historic Preservation Office. It includes only a discussion of those Historic Contexts which contain properties judged as either potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or as contributors to the historic character of Stanton County. Included at the end of each summary is an illustrative inventory of properties which appear potentially significant with respect to the Historic Context being discussed. Each of these inventories has been broken into two parts containing (1) those properties which bear the greatest potential for National Register listing, and (2) those properties contributing to the historic character of the county which are of secondary priority with respect to National Register listing.

#### **Historic Context: Religion**

The contextual topic of religion, as one might gather, encompasses any cultural manifestation relative to the faithful devotion of an acknowledged deity. This includes any social entity relating to sacred organizations and rituals or considered a sacred place. In terms of historic buildings and structures, this includes churches, parsonage-rectories, cemeteries, fellowship halls, and schools. The Historic Buildings Survey of Stanton County provided 12 religious-related properties with a corresponding total of 11 contributing buildings, and three contributing sites. These 12 documented properties consist of eight churches or church complexes, three individual rural cemeteries, and one religious-related school. The results of the survey with respect to religious properties are viewed with somewhat mixed emotions. Certainly the recording of only eight churches or church complexes in a county of moderate geographic area is somewhat disappointing. The main culprit for these lower numbers was, as usual, a lack of historic integrity. In several instances religious-related properties were not documented due to severe alterations of original historic materials or to grossly obtrusive additions constructed at later dates. While the numbers of total religious properties were lower than anticipated, the quality and integrity of those that were documented was generally quite high. In fact, of the 12 religious properties, three were considered potentially eligible for the

National Register of Historic Places with an additional three properties judged as second priority contributors to the historic character of Stanton County. Although few in number, the religious properties recorded in Stanton County represent a variety of artistic, historical, and cultural influences. Artistically, the consciousness of architectural design ranged from simple, unadorned hall-type structures to more elaborate expressions of academic stylistic traditions. Historically, these buildings represent a significant period of historic importance that ranges from the early settlement churches of the 1880s to the early 20th century churches built in established white communities. And finally on a cultural level, these buildings are associated with a varied set of cultural groups including Swedes, Bohemians, and Germans.

**ST00-66: St. Johannes Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1911**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Religion - Missouri Synod Lutheran

**Location:** NW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 12, T.21 N., R.3 E.

Potentially significant for association with rural Lutheran enclave formed during early white settlement of northeast Stanton County.

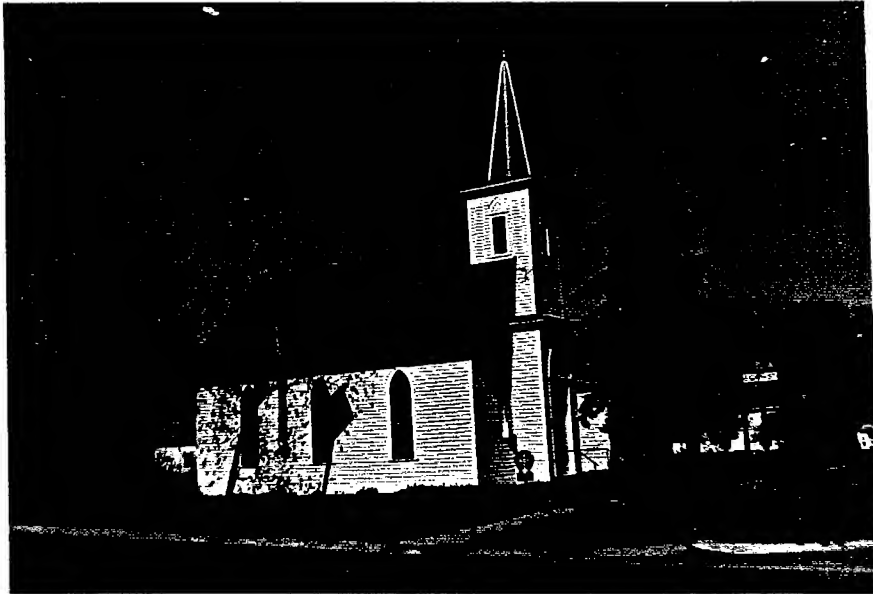


**ST02-20: Kirche Der Evangelischen Gemeinschaft, ca. 1890**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Religion, Ethnic Groups

**Location:** S.W.C. 8th and Kingwood St., Stanton

Potentially significant for role in late 19th century religious development of Stanton and for links with German-American culture.

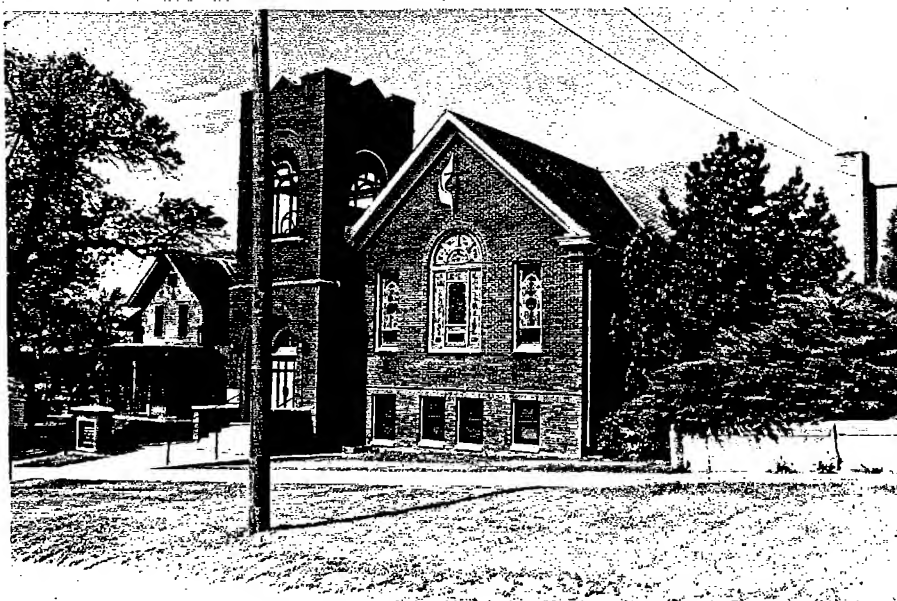


**ST02-108: United Methodist Church, 1923**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Religion - Methodist

**Location:** W.S. Tenth St. bet. Jackpine & Kingwood St., Stanton

Significant example of early 20th century commitment to religion as manifested in the well-preserved brick church building.



### **Second Priority Religion-Related Properties:**

- ST00-99: Former Church, ca. 1891, now relocated  
ST01-46: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Pilger, 1907  
ST02-109: New England Congregational Church, now St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Stanton, 1883

### **Historic Context: Education**

The contextual topic of Education encompasses any act or process which imparts or aids in the acquisition of knowledge. This title is quite self-explanatory with primary emphasis focused upon the components of schooling and enrichment. Historic buildings which fit this context are, among others, libraries, museums, and various forms or levels of schools.

The Historic Buildings Survey of Stanton County produced a total of 15 Education-related properties. This total appears to be about the median for counties containing a geographic area similar to that of Stanton County. A breakdown of the 15 documented properties reveals that 12 are rural-based schools, two are town-based schools, and one is a library. The results of the Education-related buildings survey of Stanton County are viewed with mixed emotions. On one hand, the recording of 12 rural-based schools can be considered a numerically successful endeavor, but on the other hand, the survey of only two town-based schools appears somewhat disappointing. However, it must be pointed out that only two towns exist within Stanton County and therefore the recording of just two town-based schools does not seem out of the ordinary.

While conducting a visual post-survey review of the 15 total school buildings, Save America's Heritage found that two distinct building form types were predominant. The first type is a simple unadorned hall-type building usually constructed of frame materials and containing a rectangular one-room plan. The survivors of this type were found predominantly in the rural environs and appear to have been constructed during a period from 1880 to about 1910. They are usually one story in height with a gable-end entry and were protected by a gable roof placed in either latitudinal or longitudinal orientations. The second predominant form

type to emerge were the so-called "modern school buildings which, in the case of Stanton County, were generally larger scale masonry or frame buildings confined primarily to community-based locations. These building types appear to have been built during the years of 1910 to 1930 and usually consist of a raised basement two-story masonry or frame structure. These 15 properties are collectively viewed as significant historic resources based on their role in the establishment of the educational system throughout Stanton County.

**ST00-4: District #13 Schoolhouse, ca. 1900**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Education

**Location:** SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 27, T.24 N., R.2 E., Stanton County

A well-preserved example of the hall-type school building constructed during the initial permanent settlement of Stanton County.



**ST00-119: Bega School, District #12, 1919**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Education, Ethnic Groups

**Location:** SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 7, T.24 N., R.2 E., Stanton County

Significant as an example of the early 20th century "modern" type school building and for association with Swedish culture.



**ST00-145: District #39 Schoolhouse, ca. 1885**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Education

**Location:** NW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 29, T.22 N., R.1 E., Stanton County

Potentially significant as a well-preserved example of the late 19th century hall-type school building.





**ST01-68: Pilger Public School, 1909 & 1925**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Education

**Location:** Block 7, Pioneer Town Site Addition, Pilger

Two-story brick school building chosen for use of Art Deco style design in the 1925 brick addition.

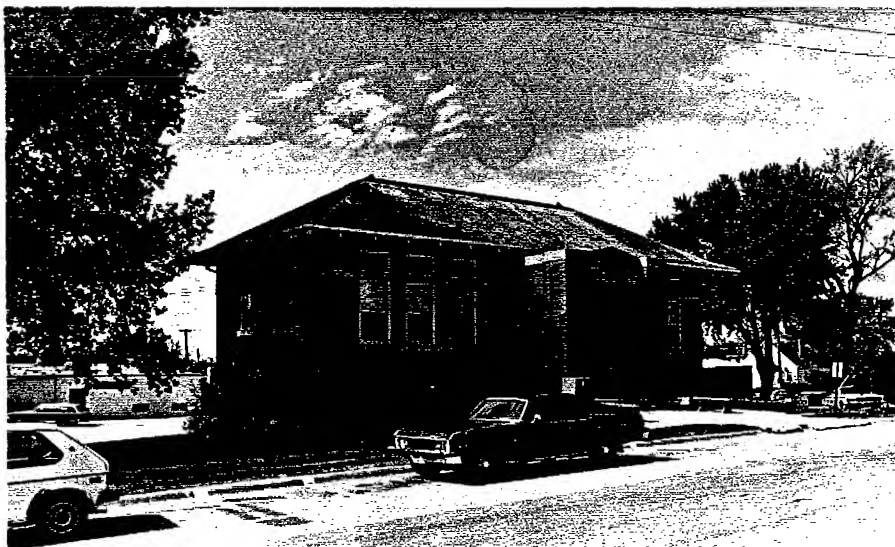


**ST02-1: Stanton Public Library, 1914**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Education - Carnegie Libraries

**Location:** S.W.C. 11th St. & Jackpine St., Stanton

One-story brick library building constructed as a result of the philanthropic efforts of the Carnegie Corporation.



### **Second Priority Education-Related Properties:**

ST00-39: District #28 Schoolhouse  
ST00-49: District #46 Schoolhouse  
ST00-82: Glandt School District #31  
ST00-117: District #35 Schoolhouse

### **Historic Context: Agriculture**

The Historic Contexts relating to the theme of Agriculture will obviously be of great variety and importance to Nebraska. As a predominantly agrarian-based society, the economic well-being of the state is, in part, dependent upon the production of crops and livestock. Like other Nebraska counties, the settlement of Stanton County was correspondent to the agricultural success of the early permanent settlers. Consequently, the documentation of historic agricultural properties in Stanton County was an important and numerically significant task. Bearing this out is the fact that a total of 129 individual farm sites were documented by the Historic Buildings Survey of Stanton County. These 129 properties accounted for 953 contributing buildings, 25 contributing structures, and 23 contributing objects. While no other county in the Northeast Nebraska survey area contained the identical geographic area as Stanton County, these totals do appear somewhat consistent on a proportional basis to those of the other seven counties within the study area.

The farmsteads documented by the survey are collectively viewed as an important historic resource for the state of Nebraska. They portray the raw materials of a people and an industry responsible for the settlement of a vast portion of our state. The continued existence of some of the farms documented in Stanton County is, however, somewhat in doubt. In fact, 47 or approximately 36.5% of the 129 farms recorded were either abandoned farmsteads or farmhouses. The majority of these farms range in their era of construction from approximately 1885 to 1930. They contain the basic buildings necessary to crop and animal production such as cattle and hog barns, drive-thru corn cribs, granaries, and implement sheds. Particular emphasis was placed on the observance of farm properties relating to Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production. This

farming type was identified in the 1930s by authors associated with the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture (Hedges and Elliott; Garey) as the predominant type of agriculture conducted in Stanton County. This farming type was indeed prevalent throughout the duration of the rural survey with over 90% of all farms surveyed exhibiting some connection to cattle and/or hog production. Some of the more noteworthy properties or individual buildings with potential association to this context are: ST00-28, ST00-29, ST00-30, ST00-41, ST00-42, ST00-50, and ST00-136. These seven properties are recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and are illustrated in the Preliminary Inventory found below. In addition to these, five more properties with potential association to the Agriculture Context are also illustrated in the Inventory below. However, these properties are more closely associated with the less predominant system of General Agriculture farming. In addition to these 11 total properties, four other sites were judged as second priority contributors to the historic character of Stanton County and are listed at the end of the Agriculture summary.

**ST00-17: Adolf Heckendorf Farmstead, 1911**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Agriculture, Ethnic Groups

**Location:** SE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 36, T.24 N., R.3 E., Stanton County

Significant example of early 20th century farmstead chosen for large Tudor style house and association with German-American culture.



**ST00-18: Abandoned Farmstead, ca. 1923**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Agriculture

**Location:** NE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 34, T.24 N., R.3 E., Stanton County

Deteriorated and abandoned farmstead preliminarily selected for the Inventory based on the presence of the circa 1923 clay tile house and silos.



**ST00-28: Farmstead, ca. 1917**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Northeast Intensive Livestock Production

**Location:** SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 31, T.24 N., R.3 E., Stanton County

Potentially significant for association with the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production Historic Context.



**ST00-29: Barn, ca. 1920**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Northeast Intensive Livestock Production

**Location:** SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 36, T.23 N., R.2 E., Stanton County

Large-scale livestock producing farmstead included in the Inventory primarily for the circa 1920 frame barn.

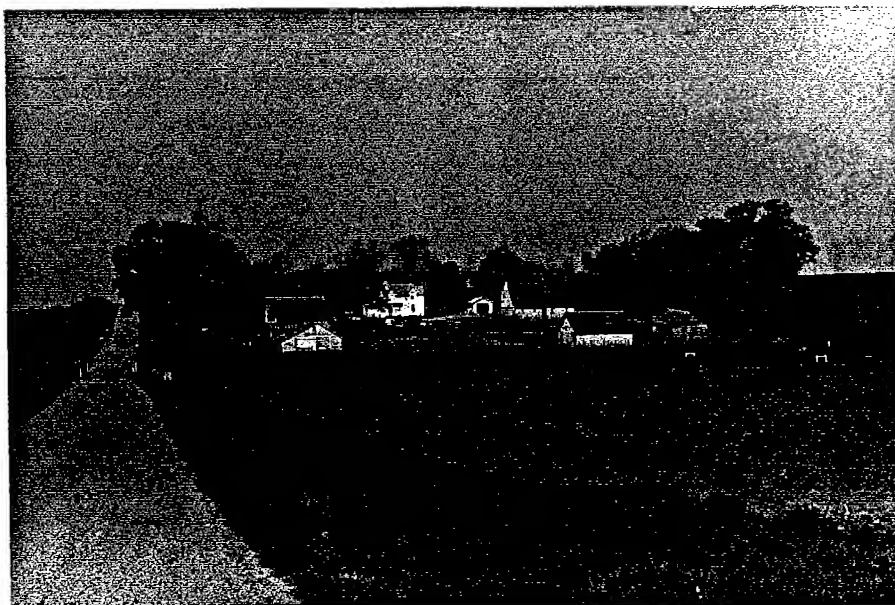


**ST00-30: Farmstead, ca. 1912**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Northeast Intensive Livestock Production

**Location:** SW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 35, T.23 N., R.2 E., Stanton County

Selected as a potentially significant representative of the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production Historic Context.



**ST00-41: Abandoned Farmstead, ca. 1915**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Northeast Intensive Livestock Production

**Location:** SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 9, T.22 N., R.3 E., Stanton County

This farmstead was chosen for its well-preserved collection of early 20th century intensive livestock producing farm buildings.

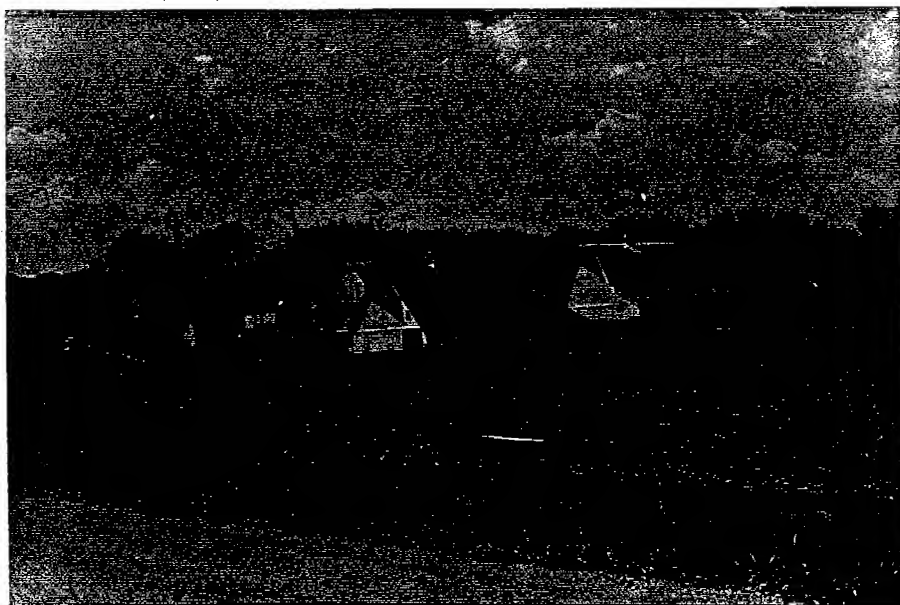


**ST00-42: George Goeller Farmstead, 1901**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Northeast Intensive Livestock Production

**Location:** SW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 27, T.23 N., R.3 E., Stanton County

Significant example of an early 20th century livestock producing farmstead as founded by the German-born immigrant, George Goeller.



**ST00-50: Abandoned Farmstead, ca. 1910**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Northeast Intensive Livestock Production

**Location:** NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 1, T.22 N., R.3 E., Stanton County

Preliminarily identified for the Inventory based on a potential association with Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock production.

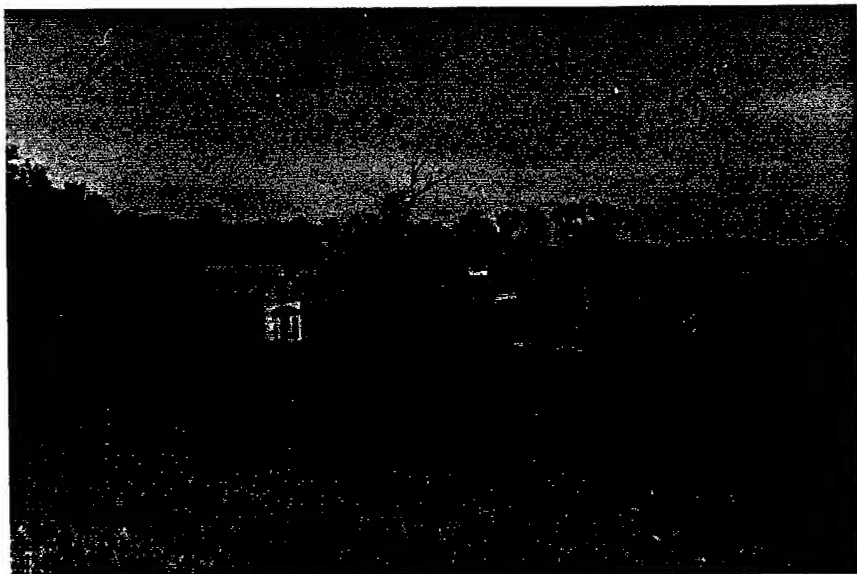


**ST00-60: Abandoned Farmstead, ca. 1890**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Agriculture

**Location:** SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 33, T.21 N., R.2 E., Stanton County

Despite abandonment, these buildings are potentially significant as components of a late 19th century General Agriculture farmstead.



**ST00-68: Farmstead, ca. 1925**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Agriculture

**Location:** NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 22, T.21 N., R.3 E., Stanton County

Potentially significant for past association with Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock farming practices.



**ST00-136: Farmstead, ca. 1920**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Northeast Intensive Livestock Production

**Location:** SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 8, T.23 N., R.2 E., Stanton County

Large-scale livestock producing farmstead included in the Inventory primarily for the circa 1920 square-shaped frame cattle barn.

Visually  
obscured  
photograph



### Second Priority Agriculture-Related Properties:

ST00-7: Farmstead  
ST00-67: Farmhouse  
ST00-96: Abandoned Farmstead  
ST00-111: Barn

### Historic Context: Commerce

The documentation of Commerce-related properties in Stanton County must be considered one of the more successful aspects of the Historic Buildings Survey of Stanton County. Stanton County contains an excellent collection of 46 recorded historic properties relating to the Historic Context of Commerce. The survey was successful not only in terms of the large number of properties recorded, but also in the respective qualities of integrity and design which these properties displayed. Indicative of these exceptional qualities is the fact that 10 of the 46 Commerce-related properties have been primarily recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

A breakdown of the 46 documented properties reveals that 30 were related to commercial retail activities, four were related to the banking industry, and 12 sites were associated with commercial transportation services. While conducting a visual post-survey review of the commercial buildings recorded in the northeast NeHBS study area, Save America's Heritage found that two distinct building types were most evident. The first type is a simple false front building usually constructed of frame materials and containing a longitudinally-oriented rectangular plan. They were typically only one story in height and were entered through a narrow gable-end entry. The two-story examples usually housed the living quarters of the proprietor above an open ground floor retail space. The survivors of this type were predominantly found in town locations and appear to have been constructed during a period from 1885 to 1905. Typically, the counties in the northeast NeHBS study area have yielded a significant number of false front type commercial buildings. However, the Historic Buildings Survey of Stanton County produced only two commercial buildings employing the false front motif. This is primarily attributed

to the fact that Stanton County contains only two communities and therefore lacks a large pool of historically built Commercial-related properties. Add to this the ever-present nemesis of altered integrity and what results is a smaller number of properties eligible for potential survey.

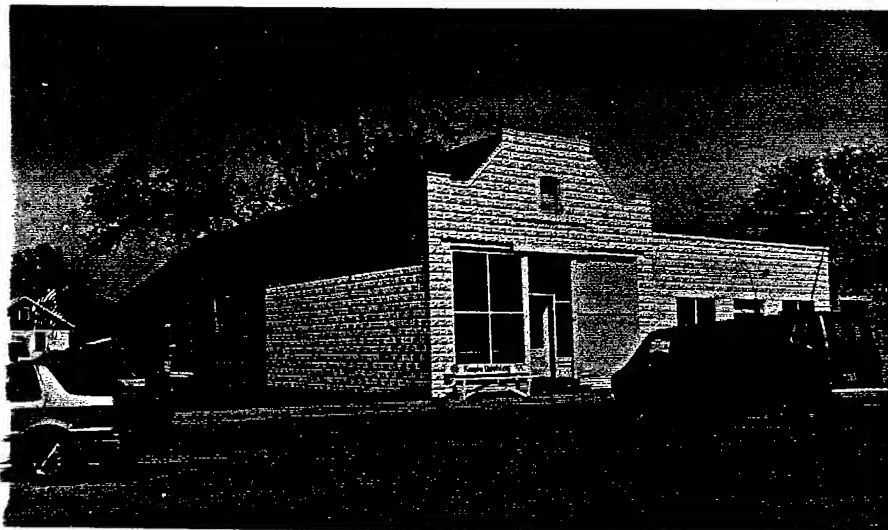
The second and more abundant type to emerge was the masonry commercial building or block. These buildings were generally large-scale masonry buildings confined primarily to the central business districts of the Stanton County communities. This building type appears to have been built primarily between the years of 1905 and 1930 and usually consist of one- and two-story masonry structures with one- or two-part compositional facades. These buildings were often built on a single 25-foot commercial-sized lots or in double- to triple-wide commercial blocks of 50 to 75 foot widths. Of the 46 Commerce-related properties recorded in Stanton County, 44 consisted of the early 20th century masonry type.

**ST01-10: Carl Axen Commercial Building, ca. 1906**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Commerce - Retail

**Location:** W.S. Main St. bet. 2nd & 3rd St., Pilger

One-story concrete block commercial building selected for its association with early 20th century retailing and German-American culture.



**ST01-16: Farmers National Bank, 1901**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Commerce - Banking

**Location:** S.E.C. Second St. & Main St., Pilger

Two-story brick bank building significant for its role in the early 20th century economic development of Pilger.



**ST01-56: Commercial Garage, ca. 1913**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Commerce - Transportation Services

**Location:** N.S. First St. bet. Main St. & Cuming St., Pilger

Well-preserved two-story concrete block commercial building potentially significant for its association with retail commerce activities.



**ST01-57: George Rasmussen Ford Garage Building, ca. 1919**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Commerce - Transportation Services

**Location:** N.S. First St. bet. Main St. & Cuming St., Pilger

One-story brick false front garage building selected as an example of transportation-related commerce.



**ST01-74: Blacksmith Building, ca. 1898**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Commerce

**Location:** S.E.C. Second St. & Stanton St., Pilger

Selected as an example of a turn-of-the-century false front building type and for association with sole proprietor retail commerce.



**ST02-48: Former Bank, ca. 1900**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Commerce - Banking

**Location:** N.W.C. Tenth St. & Ivy St., Stanton

Two-story brick bank building potentially significant for its role in the financial development of Stanton County in the early 1900s.

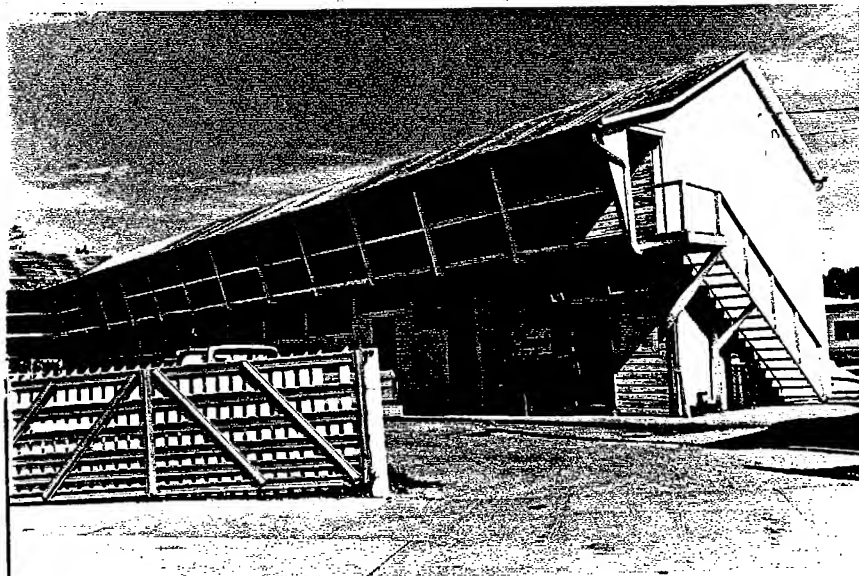


**ST02-101, 102: Lumber Yard and Office, ca. 1900**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Commerce

**Location:** N.S. Railroad St. bet. 10th & 11th St., Stanton

Circa 1900 lumber yard chosen for association with the Historic Context of Retail Commerce.



**ST02-103: Former Brewery Office, ca. 1903**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Commerce

**Location:** N.W.C. 10th St. & Hickory St., Stanton

One-story brick commerce building purportedly built as a regional office for the Storz Brewing Company.



**ST02-107: Commercial Building, ca. 1903**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Commerce - Professional

**Location:** W.S. 10th St. bet. Ivy St. & Jackpine St., Stanton

One-story brick commercial building chosen for retention of historic integrity and for association with professional-related services.

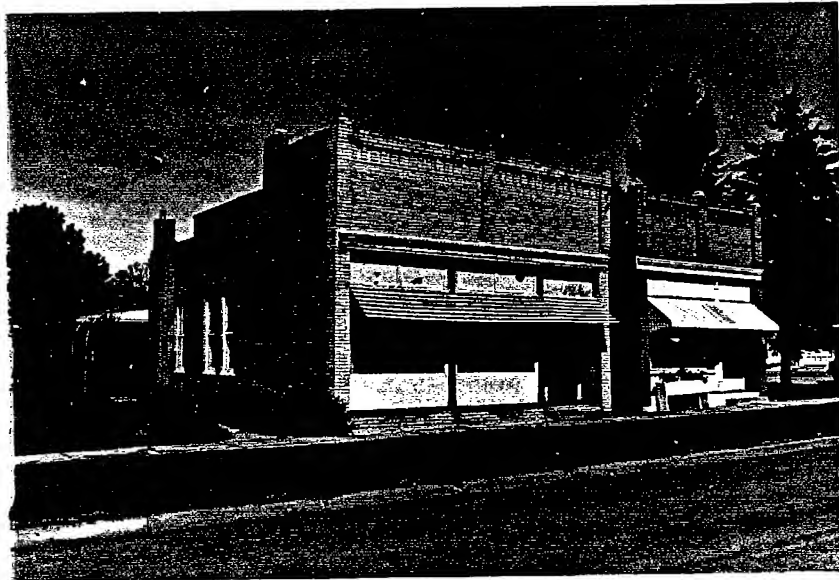


**ST02-110, 111: Commercial Buildings, ca. 1910**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Commerce - Retail

**Location:** S.W.C. 11th St. & Ivy St., Stanton

Two adjacent brick commercial buildings chosen for their unusual residential location and as examples of sole proprietorship commerce.



**Second Priority Commerce-Related Properties:**

**ST01-15: Pilger Mercantile Company Building, ca. 1895**

### Historic Context: Settlement Systems

Settlement Systems is the broad contextual title encompassing the division, acquisition, and ownership of land. This theme also contains the patterns generated through political, religious, or commercial activities to facilitate the establishment of cultural systems. Not surprisingly, this topic contained the greatest number of documented historic properties within Stanton County. Of the 344 total properties recorded in Stanton County, 253 or 73.5% fall within the theme of Settlement Systems. This total appears to be far above that of other northeast NeHBS counties based on a proportional geographic judgement. The retention of historic integrity that these 253 properties displayed was obviously quite varied. In some instances, the integrity had been severely compromised through later alterations or additions, while in other cases buildings were recorded which were extremely similar to their original condition. The era of construction for these properties was quite diverse as well. Construction dates appear to range from the first crude pre-railroad dwellings of the 1870s to the period-revival houses of the 1930s.

The majority of the 253 settlement system properties appeared in two basic forms: (1) the circa 1910 two-story square house (Supratype 51) and (2) the Craftsman style house built in abundance from 1915 to 1925 (Supratypes 19, 20, and 21). In addition to these two predominant types, a smaller group of "high-style" houses were also observed. These style-oriented houses, with the exception of the Craftsman, occurred rather infrequently. Despite this infrequent occurrence, however, the "high-style" houses were represented by a broad range of stylistic types. These included Italianate, Stick, Shingle, Folk Victorian, Queen Anne, and a vernacularized version of Prairie Style.

Besides accounting for the largest percentage of recorded buildings, the contextual theme of Settlement Systems also represents the largest number of properties recommended for the National Register of Historic Places. Twenty-one of the 50 properties recommended as potentially eligible for the NRHP are found in the Preliminary Inventory under the heading of Settlement Systems. The listing of these properties as well as that of nine second priority properties is included below.

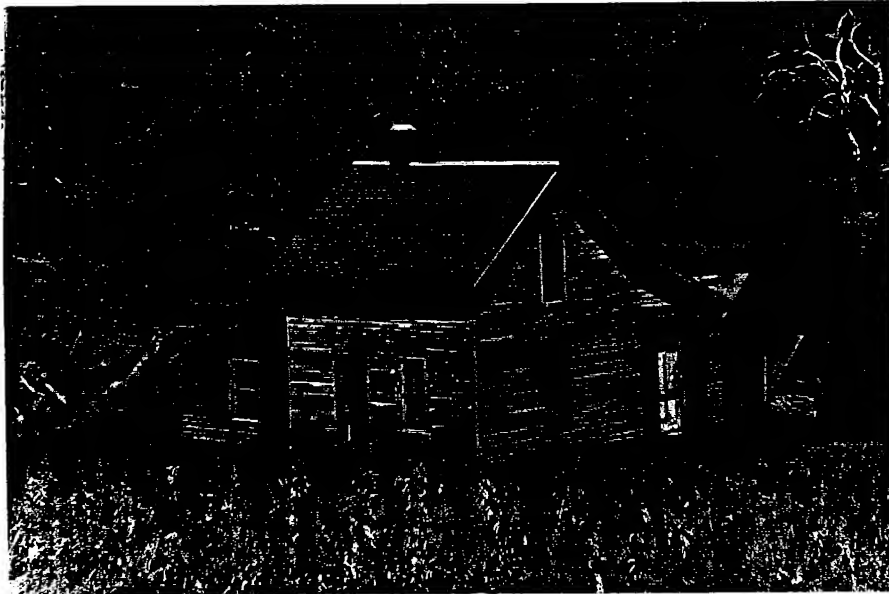


**ST00-1: Abandoned Farmhouse, ca. 1885**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems - Rural

**Location:** SW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 32, T.22 N., R.1 E., Stanton County

One-room square-shaped farm cottage potentially significant for association with early permanent settlement in southwest Stanton County.



**ST00-54: Abandoned Farmhouse, ca. 1893**

**Potential Historic Context:** Settlement Systems - Rural

**Location:** SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 10, T.22 N., R.3 E., Stanton County

Selected as a future research property with potential association to Swedish and/or Swedish-American culture.



**ST00-113: Farmstead, ca. 1890**

**Potential Historic Context:** Settlement Systems - Rural

**Location:** SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 31, T.23 N., R.1 E., Stanton County

Included in the Inventory as a well-preserved example of the gable front house type associated with pre-20th century settlement.

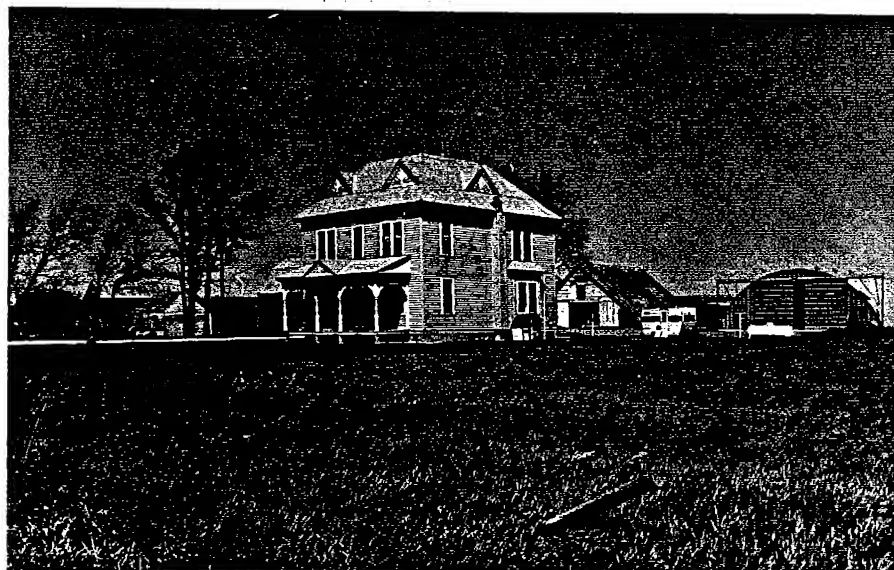


**ST00-115: Farmstead, ca. 1902**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems - Rural

**Location:** SW 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 25, T.23 N., R.1 E., Stanton County

Large two-story frame house representative of the Spindlework subtype of Queen Anne architecture.

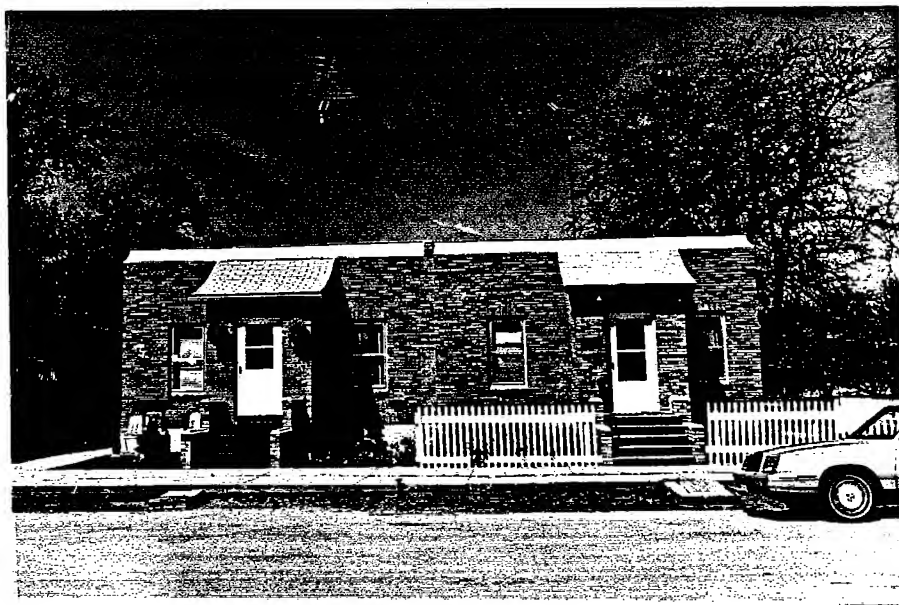


**ST01-5: Apartment Duplex, ca. 1940**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** N.W.C. 3rd St. & Cuming St., Pilger

Circa 1940 one-story brick duplex building chosen primarily for its existence as a locally rare building type.



**ST01-42: House, ca. 1908**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** W.S. Cuming St. bet. Railroad & Elm St., Pilger

Two-story concrete block house representative of the numerically predominant house form recorded in Stanton County (S.51).

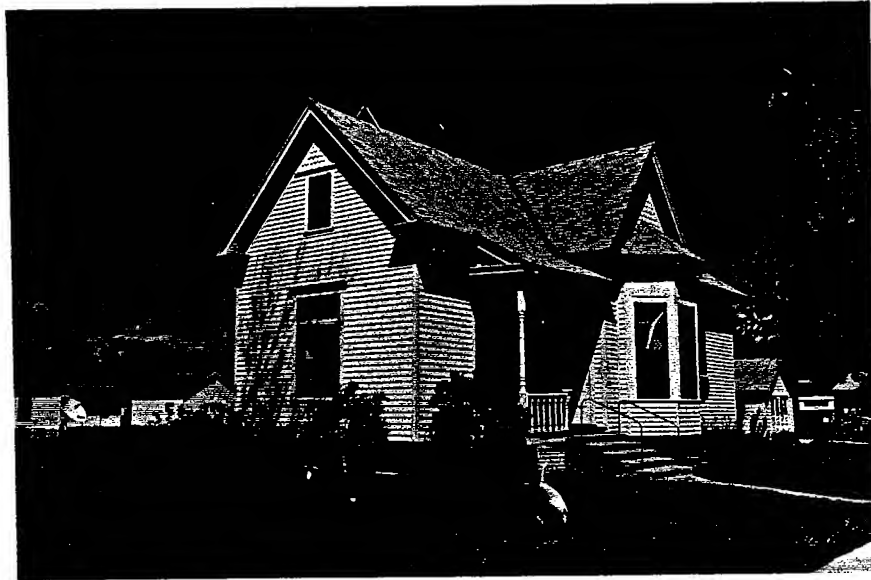


**ST01-59: House, ca. 1902**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** N.E.C. 2nd St. & Cuming St., Pilger

Included in the Inventory as a significant example of the Gable Front and Wing subtype associated with the Folk Victorian house style.

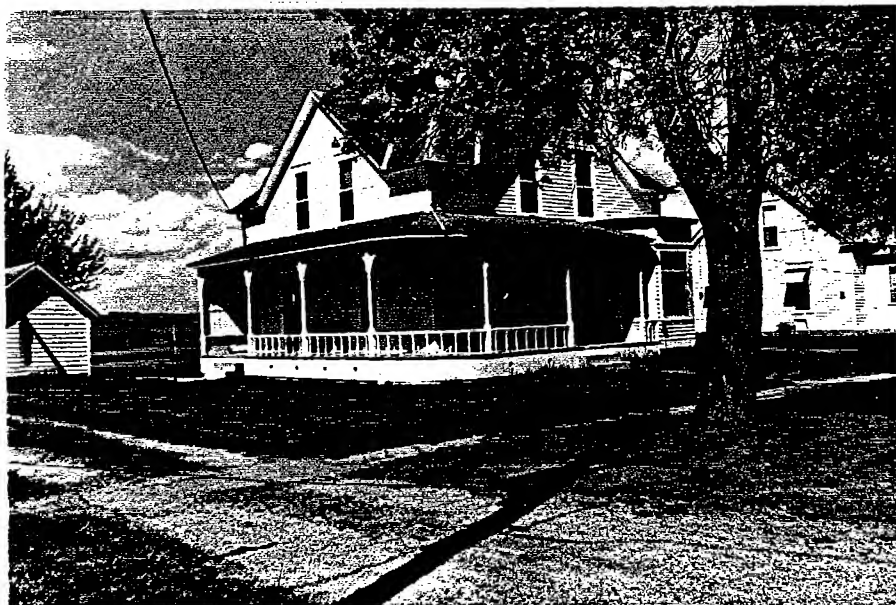


**ST01-71: House, ca. 1904**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** N.S. 4th St. bet. Madison & Monroe St., Pilger

Potentially significant as a well-preserved representative of early 20th century settlement in Stanton.



**ST02-17: House, ca. 1910**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** N.E.C. 4th St. & Kingwood St., Stanton

Potential significance derived from the individually unique Supratype 43 house form and for possible association with ethnic cultures.



**ST02-19: House, ca. 1910**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** 607 Kingwood St., Stanton

Included in the Inventory as a well-preserved concrete block example of the numerically significant Supratype 51 house form.



**ST02-32: House, ca. 1909**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** 804 Jackpine St., Stanton

Significant as a representative of the Free Classic subtype associated with Queen Anne architecture and for possible association with significant persons.



**ST02-39: House, ca. 1892**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** 509 Ivy St., Stanton

Circa 1892 brick house representing one of the first pre-20th century examples of masonry house construction in Stanton.

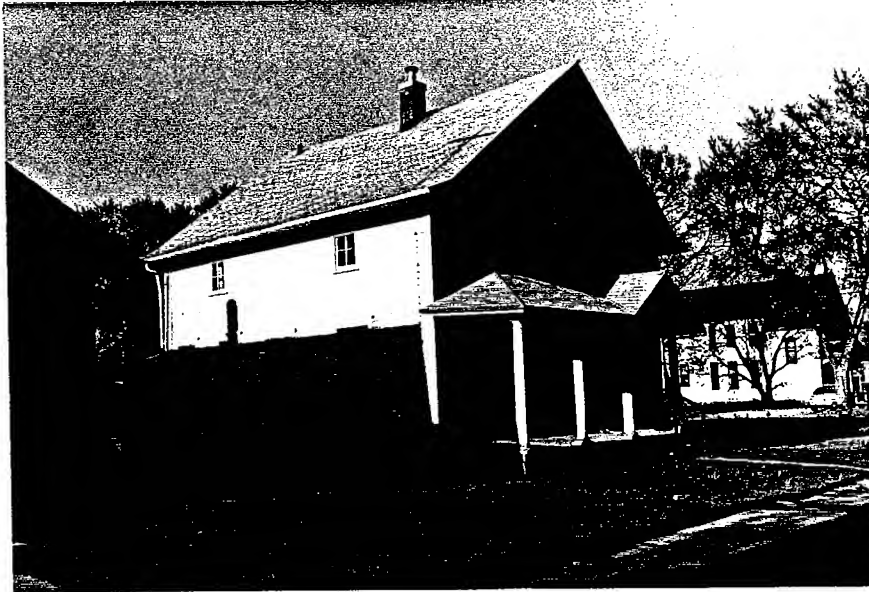


**ST02-41: House, ca. 1900**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** 600 Ivy St., Stanton

Included in the Inventory as a turn-of-the-century example of the numerically significant Supratype 27 house form.



**ST02-43: House, ca. 1900**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** 706 Ivy St., Stanton

Selected for potential association with ethnic cultures and as a symbol of town settlement in central Stanton County.





**ST02-52: House, ca. 1911**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** N.W.C. 4th St. & Ivy St., Stanton

A well-preserved example of the Hipped Roof Free Classic subtype of Queen Anne architecture with possible association to locally significant persons.

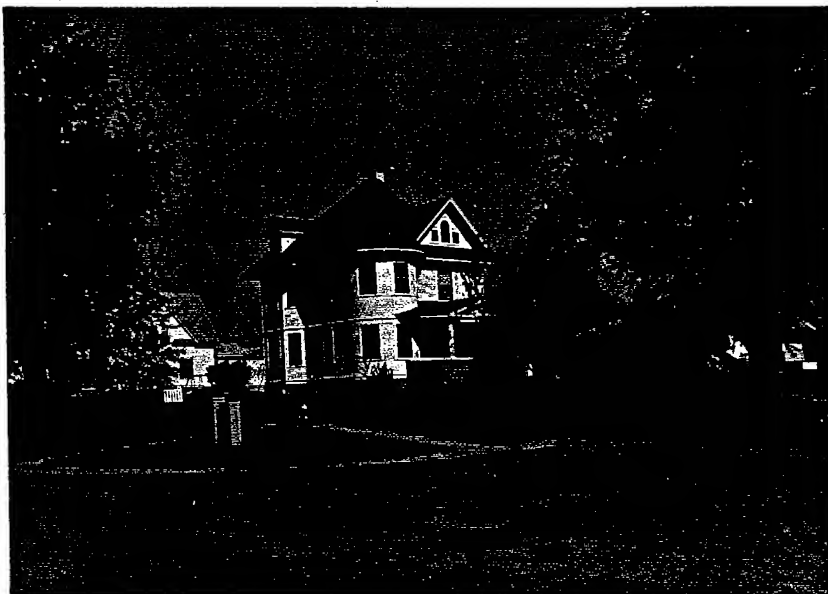


**ST02-64: House, ca. 1911**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** 801 14th St., Stanton

Significant as an example of the popular development of Queen Anne style house building and for possible association with significant persons.



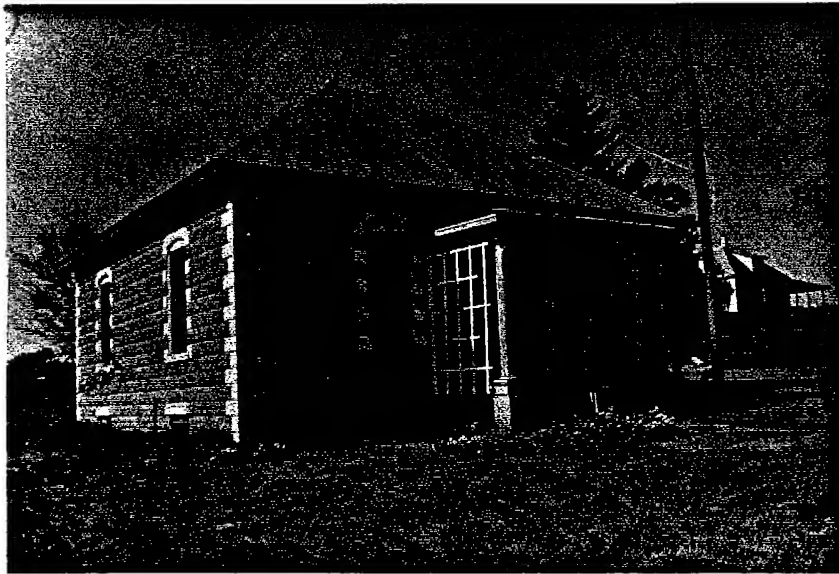


**ST02-67: House, ca. 1906**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** 1609 Gumwood St., Stanton

Early 20th century square house judged significant as one of many local residential applications of cement block construction in Stanton.



**ST02-78: House, ca. 1907**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** 500 10th St., Stanton

Selected as a unique small-scale cross-gabled version of the locally popular Queen Anne house style.



**ST02-80: House, ca. 1908**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** 803 Douglas St., Stanton

One-story square house exemplary of the popular use of concrete block construction in Stanton during the early 20th century.

Visually  
obscured  
photograph

**ST02-93: House, ca. 1900**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** 1307 7th St., Stanton

A well-preserved one-story frame banked house associated with the early permanent settlement dwellings of Stanton.



**ST02-100: House, ca. 1912**

**Potential Historic Context(s):** Settlement Systems

**Location:** 1103 7th St., Stanton

A well-preserved and potentially significant example of the hipped roof with cross-gable house form associated with Free Classic Queen Anne architecture.



**Second Priority Settlement Systems Properties:**

- ST00-16: Abandoned Farmhouse
- ST00-32: Abandoned Farmstead
- ST00-53: Farmstead
- ST00-69: Abandoned Farmhouse
- ST01-43: House
- ST01-44: House
- ST02-37: House
- ST02-38: House
- ST02-88: House

### **Historic Context: Ethnic Groups**

Due to a change in the survey policy of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation office (NeSHPO), the development of ethnic-related Historic Context Reports and subsequent intensive study of ethnic buildings has not been included in the Historic Buildings Survey of Stanton County. Instead, the NeSHPO has chosen to complete a 100% reconnaissance survey to first determine the status of extant resources and then follow up with intensive studies of those buildings targeted by the reconnaissance survey as potentially significant for their association with identified ethnic cultures. Consequently, the discussion of potentially significant ethnic properties as such is not included in the Preliminary Inventory under the heading of Ethnic Groups. Instead, recommendations concerning potential ethnic properties have been made in the Settlement Systems portion of the Inventory. In addition to this, comments concerning potential ethnic-related context studies can be found in the Recommendations for Future Work.

### **General Summary Part 2:**

#### **A Supratype Summary of Stanton County House Types**

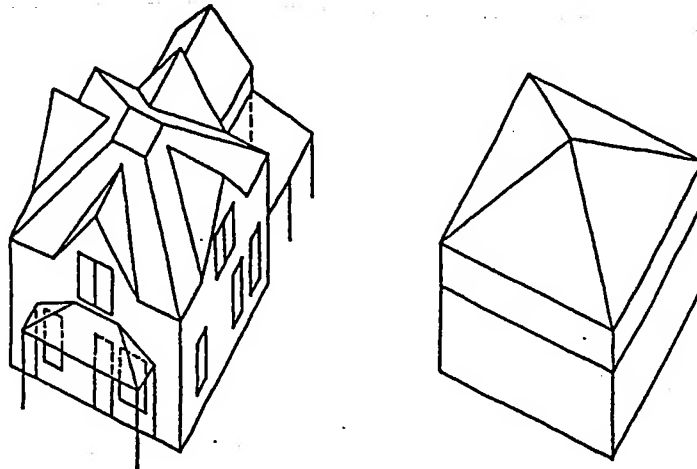
It is no surprise that domestic architecture is the most frequently recorded resource in reconnaissance-level surveys. The Stanton County survey was no exception producing a total of 253 residential resources. This total represents 26% of the 974 contributing buildings recorded within the study area. The preservation of this building type can be attributed to the continuing social need for shelter and the predominant location of residences in towns where the opportunity for occupancy is greater. The recording of residential buildings in the Stanton County survey included not only occupied resources, but abandoned as well. In addition, all houses that were surveyed as part of a church site or farmstead were included in the aforementioned totals.

In consideration of the large abundance of these resources and in an attempt to avoid "stylistic" designations, the method of Core Supratype Analysis (as developed by the Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee, D. Murphy: 1985) has been implemented. The supratype analysis eliminates

the subjective labeling of domestic buildings according to "style" and imposes instead, an objective description based on the primary external mass of the house. To best define the components of this method, an excerpt from the South Bottoms Historic District National Register Nomination (D. Murphy: 1987, 1-4) is included below.

The supratype is a categorization based exclusively on the external massing of houses, similar to that first developed by Kniffen (1936) under the ruberick of "type." The term "supra-type" is applied here to distinguish it from the more current methods of type analysis which are based on form, that is, on external massing and internal space, such as that developed by Glassie (1975).

Core supratypes are defined by combinations of five massing elements as applied to the core structure of houses. Core structure is defined as the predominant mass element which cannot be further subdivided (Figure 2). In general, core refers to that portion of a house which is exclusive of wings and porches. The mass elements which compose the core include its shape, relative size, wall height, roof type, and its orientation on the site.

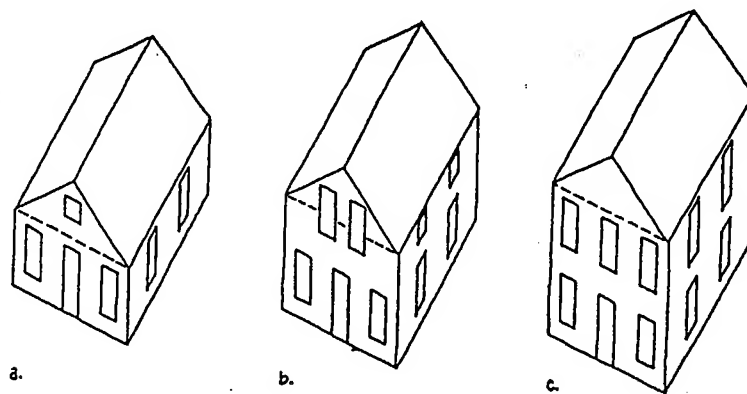


**Fig. 2. The core structure derived from the house (after Murphy).**

Shape designations for core structures are geometric, based on the ground-level outline of the core. Designations include square (S), rectangular (R), tee-shaped (T), ell-shaped (L), cross-shaped (X), U-shaped (U), polygonal (P), H-shaped (H), courtyard (C), irregular (I), and circular (O).

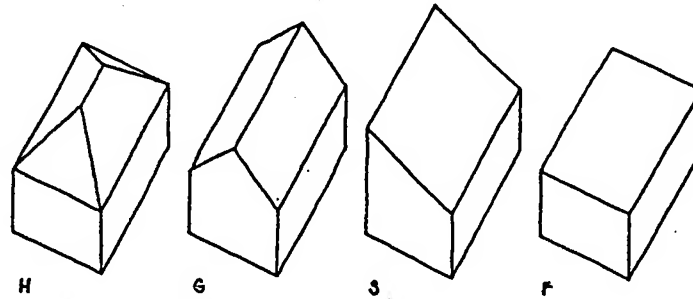
The horizontal size of the core is related to a need to distinguish large houses from small ones. Size, in the supratypal method, refers to horizontal dimension and is applied only to the narrowest dimension of the core, or to its width. While actual dimensions are recorded, houses are sorted based upon "units" of measurement which approximate the number of rooms a given width normally could contain (e.g., one, one with hall, two rooms, etc.). Units of width in the South Bottoms Historic District are defined as 0.5 (less than 14 ft.), 1.0 (14-19 ft.), 1.5 (20-29 ft.), 2.0 (30-39 ft.), and 2.5 (40 ft. or greater).

The second measurement of size involves the height of the core. We designate this dimension in terms of stories, even though it is based exclusively on the height of the external wall, not on the amount of usable internal space. The measurement is based on the facade wall, the top of which is expressed by the eave line (Figure 3). Thus attics, the space beneath a sloping roof, are not considered in determinations of height.



**Fig. 3.** Wall height guidelines illustrated, note the eave line: a) one story, b) one-and-one-half story, c) two story (after Murphy).

The fourth massing element is roof type. These are so well known that they need little explanation. The supratypal method utilizes only four generic types for simplicity, subsuming under these all the variants (Figure 4). The four types include flat (F), shed (S), hipped (H, including pyramidal and mansard), and gabled (G, including gambrel and gerkinhead).



**Fig. 4. Generic roof types: H: hipped; G: gable; S: shed; F: flat (after Murphy).**

The last aspect of mass used in describing core supratypes involves the orientation of the core on the site, relative to its facade. Facade is defined as that wall which is the architectural front of the house, facing the road or the street, which is usually but not always more highly decorated. Facades also usually but not always incorporate the main entrance. Orientation is expressed in latitudinal (La), longitudinal (Lo), and non-applicable (Na) terms. There are several core shapes for which orientation is not applicable. Since only two shapes, the square (S) and the rectangular (R), are statistically significant in South Bottoms, orientation will be discussed only for those two here.

For rectangular shapes, if the narrow (gable) end faces the street, the axis of its roof is perpendicular to the street. Its orientation is then termed longitudinal (Lo). If the eave side faces the street, its roof ridge runs parallel to the

street and its orientation is described as latitudinal (La). Orientation is always applicable for rectangular cores.

For square shapes (S), where both the front and side dimensions are equal, we would normally consider orientation to be non-applicable (Na). This is true for squares with hipped or pyramidal roofs. However, if the square core is sheltered by a gable roof, the ridge provides an illusion of orientation as though it were rectangular in shape. Therefore, square shapes with gable roofs have orientation recorded in the same fashion as that for rectangular cores.

In summary, core supratypes are external massing categorizations applied to the core structure of houses. Core structure is the predominant mass element which cannot be further subdivided (that portion of the house exclusive of subordinate wings and porches). Five massing aspects of the core are used to derive the supratype—its shape, relative size, height, roof type, and orientation. Particular combinations of these aspects are designated numerically (S.ç). (D. Murphy: South Bottoms Historic District National Register Nomination, 1987, 1-4).

### **Stanton County House Types**

The use of the Core Supratype analysis in the reconnaissance-level survey proved beneficial in that it created an objective process of interpretation for the recording of historic residences. The residential properties documented in the Stanton County survey are represented by 60 different supratypes. A numerical designation has been assigned to each of these 60 types (e.g., S.1, S.2, S.3, etc.). A master list of the 60 individual types is included in this report as Appendix 2.

While 60 various supratypes may seem like a varied lot for 253 total resources, a somewhat more narrow group actually represents the majority of the documented properties. In fact, 10 supratype categories account for 59% of all recorded sites. Furthermore, 47% of all Stanton County houses fit into one of only six supratype categories. The supratype recording of historic houses has produced a large volume of data which can

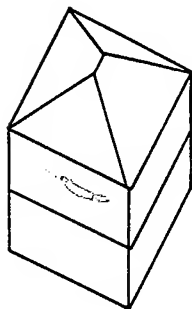


be analyzed in an infinite number of ways. However, in an attempt to present a concise and useful summary of the supratype data, Save America's Heritage has focused on the answers to two basic questions. These are:

1. What were the numerically significant supratypes of the entire county?
2. What were the numerically significant supratypes of town locations versus those of rural locations?

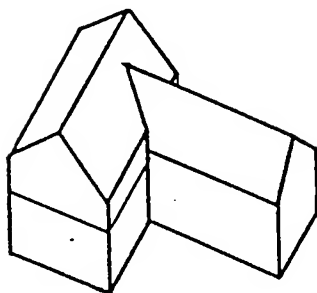
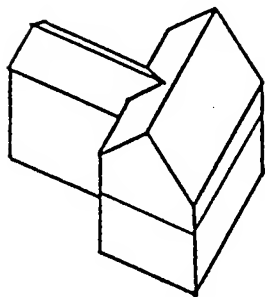
To answer these questions, a numerical analysis of the 60 supratypes was performed to derive a minimum level of significance. With a survey total of 253 houses, this minimum level was established at 4.5% necessitating a representation of 12 or more houses. Of the 60 supratypes generated by the Stanton County survey, five individual types exceed the 4.5% level and are summarized in the following discussion.

## Supratype 51



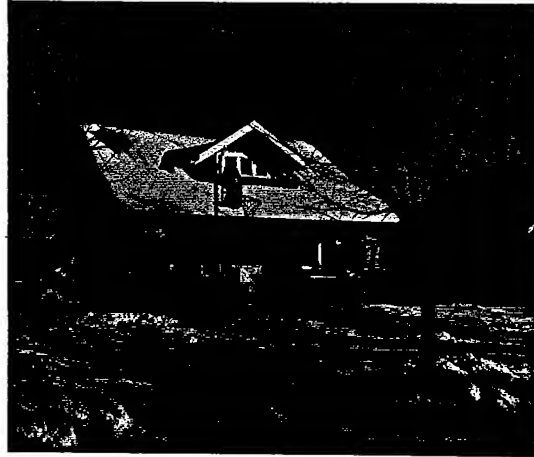
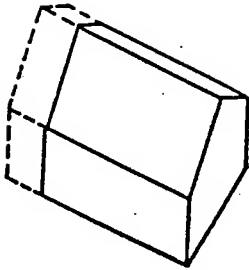
Supratype No. 51; S, 2.Ou, 2.Os, H, n. The two-story square house was a popular choice among many Nebraska builders of the early 20th century. Therefore, it is not surprising that S.51 was the most frequently documented house form in Stanton County representing 14.2% of the 253 recorded houses. The S.51 consists of a two-unit (30 to 39 feet) square core making it the largest of the numerically significant houses in Stanton County. The essential characteristics defining this type are a wide square-shaped core rising to two stories in height and covered with a pyramidal, truncated, or standard hipped roof. Additional features common to this type are frontal porches, bay windows, and hipped dormers. The predominant location for this house type was in the rural environs of Stanton County where it accounted for 17.2% of the 122 rural houses. Contrasting this is the less frequent documentation of the S.51 in town locations where it represented 11.5% of the 131 houses.

### Supratype 17



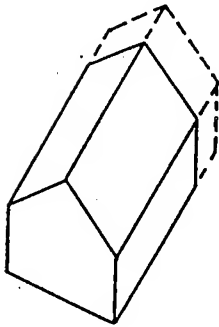
Supratype No. 17; R, 1.0u, 1.5s, G, Lo. Supratype 17 was tied for second as the most numerically significant house type (7.9%) among the 60 types generated by the Stanton County survey. The essential characteristics of the S.17 are a one and one-half story rectangular core placed in longitudinal orientation with the narrow front gable-end ranging in width from 14 to 19 feet. Most often these types contained a perpendicular side gable wing of shorter height which usually contained an entry protected by a hipped roof porch. These houses were found in a relatively equal balance between rural (9.7%) and town (6.2%) locations and appear to have been built primarily between the years of 1895 to 1910.

### Supratype 19



Supratype No. 19; R, 1.5u, 1.0s, G, La. Supratype 19 was tied for second as the most numerically significant house type (7.9%) among 60 types generated by the Stanton County survey. The essential characteristics of the S.19 are a one-story rectangular core placed in a latitudinal orientation with a side gable-end ranging in width from 20 to 29 feet. Most often these types appeared in the recognizable and generically known "bungalow" form. Their primary era of construction was from 1915 to 1930 and they were found predominantly in the towns of Stanton County (10.0%) rather than outlying rural locations (5.3%).

## Supratype 20



Supratype No. 20; R, 1.5u, 1.0s, G, Lo. Among the 60 supratypes present in Stanton County, Supratype No. 20 was the fourth most frequently recorded house form representing 7.1% of the 253 surveyed houses. The essential characteristics of this type consist of a rectangular-shaped core with the narrowest dimension ranging from 20 to 29 feet, a height of one story, and a gable roof running in a longitudinal orientation. This house type appears to have been started in the early settlement years of the 1890s and was carried into the 1920s where it was more commonly adorned with "craftsman" decorative motifs. The strong representation of this house type is due mostly to its predominant use in town locations. In fact, this type appeared in 10.7% of the 131 houses recorded in the two Stanton County towns and was only documented in 3.3% of the rural properties.

### Supratype 27



Supratype No. 27; R, 1.5u, 1.5s, G, Lo. The fifth and final house type surpassing the 4.5% limit of significance is Supratype No. 27. This type represents 5.5% of the 253 houses recorded within Stanton County and consists of rectangular-shaped core one and one-half stories in height capped by a gable roof. The core of the house is placed in a longitudinal orientation to the street with the front gable-end ranging in width from 20 to 29 feet. The strong representation of this house type is due mostly to its predominant use in town locations where it was found in 8.4% of the surveyed houses. In general, these houses appear to have been employed during the initial settlement periods of 1880 through 1900. They are more commonly recognized as the vernacular "upright-with-wing" whereby a shorter side gable wing was attached in a perpendicular relation to the core.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK**

Throughout the duration of the Stanton County survey, random observations were recorded in an effort to later construct recommendations for future work. The general impressions recorded by the survey team were then combined with a post-survey analysis of documented historic properties. The resulting recommendations were conceptualized by Save America's Heritage to fit the "tools" of preservation and documentation available to the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office. These tools consist of Multiple Property, Historic District, and individual nominations to the NRHP as well as intensive survey relating to Historic Context Reports.

The following suggestions are separated into two categories and are presented as follows: 1) NeSHPO National Register Follow-Up, and 2) Potential Thematic Studies.

### **National Register Recommendations**

The first of the two categories, the NeSHPO National Register Follow-Up, is a basic summary of the potential National Register of Historic Places listing activities associated with the Stanton County survey.

Save America's Heritage strongly suggests the drafting of nominations for all properties judged by NeSHPO staff as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The drafting of these nominations may occur in two basic forms. First, as Multiple Property nominations for all buildings which relate to Historic Contexts developed by the NeSHPO, or as individual nominations of the 50 properties listed in the Recommendations for Future Work and Preliminary Inventory of Stanton County historic buildings. The properties which appear in the Preliminary Inventory are those which appear potentially eligible for the National Register and should be acted upon immediately following the submittal of this report.

### **Potential Thematic Studies/Multiple Property Nominations**

The following priorities for future work recommended by Save America's Heritage are listed thematically. These themes are presented at

this point as those which appear to have the greatest potential for development into Historic Context Reports. The basis for these suggestions were derived from presurvey research, agricultural analyses, and Reconnaissance Survey observations.

#### **1. Ethnic Groups in Stanton County**

The selection of specific ethnic groups to be intensively studied during the Historic Buildings Surveys of northeast Nebraska counties has heretofore been determined by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) and incorporated into the contractual agreements outlining such surveys. However, in the case of the Stanton County Historic Buildings Survey, the selection and intensive study of the buildings created by an ethnic group or groups was not included in the Project Work Program outlined in the Contractual Agreement. Instead, the NeSHPO has chosen to complete a 100% reconnaissance survey to first determine the status of extant resources and then follow up with intensive studies of those ethnic buildings targeted by the reconnaissance survey as potentially significant for their association with identified ethnic cultures. The identification of these ethnic cultures was preliminarily derived through pre-field research.

Information on the numbers of foreign-born persons was taken from Wayne Wheeler's compilation of census data. Since no detailed census analysis was performed, the locations of various ethnic settlements within the county must be inferred, primarily from county and ethnic histories and other secondary sources. Evidence of the various groups' presence is indicated by the institutions which they founded. Churches, cemeteries, and fraternal organizations are examples of such institutions. In some cases, secondary sources mention specific ethnic groups as having settled in a particular area. In any event, a precinct-by-precinct census analysis should be performed to obtain a more precise picture of ethnic settlement within the county.

The ethnic diversity of the people who settled and made their homes and livelihoods there are an important part of the history of Stanton County. The early settlers were largely U.S.-born persons from the



eastern and east-central states (Hayes, p. 3). In the 1870 and 1880 census years 64% of the population were U.S. born. As immigration slowed and children of the foreign born were born in the U.S., the figure increased to 80% of the population U.S. born in 1880. The foreign born in Stanton County came from over 15 foreign countries, adding richness to the social fabric of the county.

The Germans were the most numerous foreign-born group in Stanton County as in Nebraska as a whole. In the 1880 census German-born persons comprised 23% of the total county population and 64% of the foreign-born population. In 1890 they comprised 68% of the foreign born in the county. In succeeding years the percentages fell to 49% of the foreign-born population in 1910.

A large number of Germans settled along Humbug Creek near Pilger and along Union Creek south of Stanton (Atlas of Stanton Co., n.p.). Many of these people had originally settled in Wisconsin but had found that area too densely forested. They found the Elkhorn Valley lands much better suited to their needs (Owens, p. 15).

Wheeler lists only 23 Bohemian-born persons in 1890. By 1900, a total of 378 are listed making them the second largest foreign-born group in the county. No Bohemians or Czechs are listed in the data for 1910; however, the Czechs are the second largest foreign-born group in 1920. It is probably safe to assume they were also the second largest foreign-born group in 1910 as well.

Bohemians settled in the southern part of the county near Haymow and the town of Stanton. This was really an extension of the Bohemian settlement in Colfax County to the south. Many who settled near Haymow had originally settled in Dodge and Cuming Counties (Rosicky, p. 239).

There was a strong Scandinavian presence in Stanton County. Swedes were the most numerous, accompanied by smaller numbers of Danes and Norwegians. Wheeler combines Swedes and Norwegians in his 1880 figures and this number represented the third largest ethnic group in the county at this time. In 1890 and 1900 Swedes were the third largest foreign-born group in the county. By 1910 the number of Danes was larger than the number of Swedes in the county. This is consistent with immigration

patterns for the nation as a whole with the Danes being later in arrival than their Scandinavian brothers.

Several sources mention the general locations of Scandinavian settlement in Stanton County. It has been reported numerous Danish Lutherans lived in the vicinity of Pilger (Owens, p. 61). A colony of Swedes founded the Bega settlement in the northern part of the county (Atlas of Stanton Co., n.p.). The Norwegians tended to mix readily with the Americans; however, there is a Norwegian Cemetery located in Elkhorn Precinct (Owens, p. 63).

An overview of the three applicable census years included in Wheeler's compilations (1880, 1890, 1910) shows that three particular ethnic groups were represented in numerically significant amounts. These three groups were: 1) Germans, 2) Swedes, and 3) Bohemians. Based upon an analysis of the Stanton County Historic Buildings Survey results and the review of Wayne Wheeler's census compilations, Save America's Heritage is recommending the investigation of these three ethnic cultures for future development as Historic Context Reports.

## **2. Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production**

Nebraska is a large state with a variety of soil types and differing climatic conditions which make it necessary for the farmer to adapt farming practices to local conditions. It should also be noted there are few distinct areas where abrupt changes in farming practices are evidenced.

Several authors associated with the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture (Hedges and Elliott; Garey; Williams and Murfield) have described systems of farming in Nebraska to refer to areas with a high degree of uniformity in the type of farming practiced and the economic and environmental conditions of the defined area. Stanton County is included in the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production (NNILP) area. In this area crops are grown more for their value as livestock feed than as a cash crop.

The loess soils of the county are able to retain a large amount of water and plant nutrients as well which make them suitable for growing a

number of crop types. The cropping system consists of corn, alfalfa, plus some wheat and oats. These are grown due to their adaptability to environmental conditions and their appropriateness as livestock feed.

Two advances were very important to intensive livestock production. A serum to prevent hog cholera resulted in an increase in production. The other highly significant advance was in the use of alfalfa in rotation with corn to maintain soil fertility. This allowed livestock production to be practiced on a more intensive level (Sweedlum, p. 207).

Corn has been the leading crop in Stanton County since farming began. Wheat was an early important crop and was second only to corn until about 1900. It was utilized as both a food and cash crop. Another reason for growing wheat was that settlers came from regions where wheat was a profitable crop. Yields and profits were low, however, because most of the early settlers grew spring wheat which was ill-adapted to the environment.

As farmers became better established, livestock became an important source of revenue. Consequently, more feed grains were needed. Oats, which were an important feed crop as well as well-adapted to soil and climatic conditions, came to be grown more and more extensively (Hayes, p. 5).

By the end of the 1930s, the intensive livestock system of farming was in full flower with northeast Nebraska having more livestock per section than any other area of the state (Hedges and Elliott, pp. 36-38).

Cattle and hog feeding are the main livestock enterprises. The value of livestock has increased through time. By 1969, Williams and Murfield report over 90% of farms reporting some kind of livestock with receipts from livestock and livestock products accounting for over 80% of average farm income (p. 33).

Data from the Census of Agriculture for the years 1910 (p. 37), 1935 (p. 333), and 1982 (p. 712) reveal the number of farms has dropped substantially, particularly between 1935 and 1982. In 1910 there were 1,137 farms in Stanton County. By 1935 the number had increased to 1,249 but by 1982 there were only 712 farms in the county. As the number of

farms increased, the average size decreased and conversely as the number of farms decreased the average size increased.

The drastic decline in the number of Stanton County farms between 1935 and 1982 has important implications for historic building survey. As farms are combined to increase acreage, farmsteads were likely abandoned. Buildings designed to meet the changing economics and farming practices of today are different than the traditional buildings of 50 years ago. Therefore, it is Save America's Heritage recommendation that the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production Historic Context Report for Stanton County be developed followed by an investigative study of historic properties within Stanton County which relate to this context. For a list of prospective properties fitting this context, please refer to the Agriculture section of the Preliminary Inventory found in Part 1 of the General Summary.

## APPENDIX 1

### RECONNAISSANCE RESEARCH DESIGN

#### 1. Introduction

It is the intention of this paper to contribute two important functions towards the execution of the Reconnaissance Survey of Stanton County. First, it will provide Save America's Heritage (SAVE) survey team with the guidelines by which the survey will be performed and secondly, it establishes a means of communicating these guidelines to NeSHPO project managers for critique and refinement.

The format of this Research Design will be to discuss first the "non-mechanical" aspects of the survey, followed by a discussion of the tasks considered more "mechanical" in nature. The primary purpose of the "mechanical" discussion is to define the documentation process used in the recording of historic properties while the "non-mechanical" discussion will consist of the survey objectives and limitations.

#### 2. Objectives Of Reconnaissance Survey

After completing a preliminary outline of the objectives associated with a reconnaissance survey, it became apparent that there was an obvious division between those objectives which were qualitative in nature and those that were quantitative. This division has organized the reconnaissance objectives into the two listings that follow.

##### **Qualitative Objectives:**

The most obvious objective of a reconnaissance-level survey is the concept of providing a preliminary characterization of the historic resources extant in a particular geographic area. Beyond this are several other very important objectives which may be used to enhance both the importance of the information generated by the reconnaissance-level survey and the importance of the survey itself. First among these additional objectives is the concept of establishing the setting of Nebraska's multi-contextual historic architecture. Each historic building survey performed

will generate information which contributes to a statewide knowledge and builds a background which future survey information can be evaluated with. Secondly, it is the objective of the historic building survey to identify specific properties or geographic areas which, in the event of an intensive survey, would contribute useful information to the above-mentioned multi-context setting. Further qualitative objectives include: the possible identification of specific building types, the identification of construction methodologies which may relate to or are unique to the context of Nebraska's historic architecture, the identification of sites worthy of National Register listing, and the expansion of knowledge relative to a specific geographic area within the state context such as ethnic settlement, building technologies and architectural image.

**Outline of Qualitative Objectives:**

- A. To create a community awareness and interest in Historic Preservation and the National Register of Historic Places.
- B. The documentation of several significant sites which will eventually be placed on the NRHP as individual, thematic, or district nominations.
- C. To document site information concerning building typologies in a format consistent with the NeSHPO Topical Listing, which can be used as an organizing element in the Final Report and Preliminary Inventory.
- D. To record any potential links between a particular ethnic settlement and its associated architectural images within the survey area.
- E. To complete a comprehensive, conscientious survey which will generate information useful to the planning process and future surveys.
- F. The collation of survey data for planning intensive survey and relating of information into the contextual frameworks.
- G. To promote historic preservation through the identification of the historic properties located within the county.
- H. To record information useful to the local planning decisions of the county when assessing projects affecting historic structures.

- I. To identify properties whose owners may be eligible for various kinds of federal, state, and local assistance in the event the owner pursues the preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation of their historic building(s).

**Quantitative Objectives:**

- A. The recording of an estimated 450 properties in Stanton County at the completion of the survey.
- B. The covering of approximately 176,000 acres (275 sq. miles) in Stanton County. In addition, both towns in Stanton County will be surveyed.
- C. Identification of at least 30 properties worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- D. Evaluating by the following hierarchy those sites for a) high potential for significance, b) suspicious buildings—those buildings that may be of significance, c) no potential in comparison to others, d) those sites not likely to yield any information.

**3. Methods Of Reconnaissance Survey**

The "mechanical" aspect of reconnaissance historic building surveys will focus primarily upon the documentation process and corresponding methods used in the recording of historical resources. The recording technique is considered of prime importance and it is the attitude of Save America's Heritage to strive for a conscientious effort and accurate method while recording historic resources. To best communicate our intentions, the following discussion on survey methods has been organized into three groups. These are 1) pre-field research, 2) pre-field activities, and 3) field activities.

**Pre-Field Research:**

Following the selection of the survey's geographic boundaries by the NeSHPO, the pre-field research is begun and focuses primarily on the performance of archival research. The main purpose of archival research is to identify the nature of the survey area's settlement by culture,

geographic location, and time frame. In addition, the archival research should attempt to identify potential themes of architectural, cultural, and historical significance within the survey area, should they exist. While it is acknowledged that the extent and availability of research information varies according to the events and background of the area, the following references will be investigated prior to the reconnaissance survey: locally written county histories, county histories written within a statewide history, existing survey data in the NeSHPO site files including survey forms, the files of the NSHS photographic collections, centennial publications on community and church histories, archival maps and atlases, newspaper articles concerning a community's built environment, and literature published by local or county historical groups. The majority of these types of publications can be found in the libraries of state and county historical societies. A bibliography of all sources referenced should be maintained and, along with photocopied information, added to the site files. These general data files are organized according to specific counties, local communities, and individual sites. The files are used prior to reconnaissance survey to familiarize the surveyors with the survey area and are consulted again in the field during the survey. Added to the general files are all forms of public correspondence received up to the point the survey is begun.

Due to the absence of an existing Historic Overview report, extensive preparation becomes necessary to satisfactorily develop the concepts of the report. The content of the Historic Overview is considered a prime source of pre-survey information. Therefore, the following is an outline of the methodology to be employed by SAVE's personnel during the composition of the county Historic Overview.

Each Historic Overview report will identify important patterns, events, persons, or cultural values pertaining to the county. It is anticipated that the information within the Historic Overview will aid in the identification of property types associated with each individual theme. In the preparation of the Historic Overview, the following will be considered:



- A. Trends in area settlement and development.
- B. Aesthetic and artistic values embodied in architecture, construction technology, or craftsmanship.
- C. Research values or problems relevant to the county, social and physical sciences and humanities, and cultural interests of local communities.
- D. Intangible cultural values of ethnic groups and native American people.

#### **Pre-Field Activities:**

The topic of pre-field activities are considered separate from pre-field research on the basis of their more publicly extroverted nature. Save America's Heritage will begin the pre-field activities with the distribution of notices announcing the survey and its intentions to all the general public. This will be done by placing general notices in established commercial and non-commercial facilities of the communities, such as the U.S. Post Office, grocery stores, donut shops, etc. Reinforcing this is the dispersal of press releases to all active newspapers existing in the county. The intent of the release is to inform the public of the survey programs and to solicit their input in the identification of historic resources. In addition to this, communication will be established with the local historians and historical societies detailing our intent and welcoming their possible input. Included in this communication will be information concerning the thematic topics and the time frame of the survey. The final task of pre-field activity will be the precautionary attempts to eliminate public suspicion. The justifiable suspicion aroused by survey activities will potentially be eliminated through the listing of survey vehicles and personnel with local police departments and county sheriff patrols. (For examples of typical communications, see Appendix D.)

#### **Field Activities—General:**

The first step prior to embarking on the survey would be the assemblage of the necessary documents used during the recording of

identified sites. This includes town plat maps, USGS 7 1/2 minute topographical maps, county road maps, site files, and the preparation of the Historic Overview. The recording of a county's significant sites would be conducted during the reconnaissance survey and would consist of identifying structures, mapping locations, architectural descriptions, and photographic documentation. Any supplemental field notes derived from observations or public communications will also be added.

The reconnaissance photography would consist of two photographs per site from opposite 45 degree angles using a wide angle perspective correcting lens. In certain cases, additional photographs of the more significant structures will be recorded showing context, detailing, or construction. Brief descriptions of each site will be recorded to define basic characteristics of the site and aid in map location during the post-survey cataloging. For domestic sites, the supratypological vocabulary developed by The Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee will be used in the description process. Photographic field notes will also be kept concerning the aspect of the image, exposure number, and corresponding roll number. In addition to the recording of the information listed above, further research will be conducted on those sites which are considered to have greater significance.

A primary concept in the documentation of historic buildings is the recognition that different building types may require different recording techniques. Therefore, it is necessary for the surveyor to define the specific types of information most relevant to the typology of the property he is documenting.

#### **4. Reconnaissance Survey Biases**

##### **Integrity:**

To be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a property must possess integrity. Integrity is the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic period. If a property retains the physical characteristics it possessed in the past then it has the capacity to convey association with historical patterns or persons,

architectural design, or information about a culture or people. Consequently, the determination of integrity is considered a most important field activity.

For reconnaissance-level documentation, two very basic questions must first be asked. These are:

1. Is the building at least 50 years old?
2. Does it retain its integrity?

The answer to question #1 is usually quite objective; however, the determination of integrity requires some discussion.

It must first be recognized that the degree of integrity exhibited by historic buildings can vary greatly. The principal investigator must first ask, "Does this property reflect its historic character or has it been altered by the application of contemporary building materials and technologies?" In most instances, the house is the first building scrutinized, especially in the case of town surveys where they represent the majority of extant buildings. However, the importance of "house integrity" is diminished when dealing with buildings located in rural settings. For most cases in Nebraska, this means a farmstead. With the added significance of agricultural-related buildings (such as hay, horse and livestock barns, granaries, corn cribs, and elevators), a limited amount of alteration to the house should not prevent the site from being documented. In the case where a farmstead contains a large historic representation of farm buildings with a severely altered house, the site will be documented as a farmstead with a non-contributing house. A final case may exist where a single, highly significant, farm-related building is located within an otherwise altered farmstead. In this event, Save America's Heritage will document the individual building designating a site number solely to the specific building, structure, or object.

Integrity also appears to play an important role in the field documentation of commercial buildings. Traditionally, buildings used for commerce have been adaptively reused by subsequent generations. These buildings are positioned along a primary local thoroughfare or even a regionally important highway, thus lending appeal to present-day retailers seeking new locations. Often the buildings are physically altered to

accommodate new functions and therefore suffer a loss of integrity. With this in mind, only those buildings exhibiting the visual characteristics of their historic period will be documented.

In summary, the determination of integrity will be based upon the historic retention of the following physical characteristics.

- Materials: Does the building retain the original materials from its period of historic importance?
- Location: Is the building placed in its original location or has it been moved?
- Design: Does the building reflect the design aesthetics of its historic period?
- Setting: Does the building reflect a historic "sense of place"?  
Does the historic image and feel still exist?
- Function: Does the building represent its historic use?

#### **Characteristics of Rural Integrity:**

With the concept of Rural Historic Districts added to the National Register process, the principal investigator is forced to develop new visual sensitivities which are sympathetic to the qualities of rural settings. New methods of survey and research must be added to our understanding of both the built and natural environment and the historic relationship between them.

With this in mind, Save America's Heritage will attempt, without contractual obligation, to observe the following characteristics of potential significance to rural historic enclaves.

- The condition and presence of features, natural and built, which relate to a historic period of importance.
- The ability of a rural environment to reflect a sense of a past time or place.
- Potential unifying factors which may link rural properties together.
- The potential significance of historic contexts not preliminarily identified as important to the study area.
- The overall patterns of landscape spatial organization (landforms, natural features, material components).

- Land-use categories and activities (farming, ranching, recreation).
- Response to natural features (landform affect on material components).
- Boundaries (cultural, political, or natural).
- Cluster arrangements (position of material elements within landscape setting).
- Ecological context (Missouri River Valley).
- Integrity: Loss of natural features that were historically integral to the rural setting and intrusion of non-contributing features.
- The presence of sociocultural institutions with association to buildings within the district (granges, township halls).

## **5. Anticipated Property Types**

Save America's Heritage anticipates the identification of historic properties in each of the following nine categories.

- ECCLESIASTICAL: Churches, church schools, parsonages, and convents
- COMMERCIAL: Banks, liverys, agricultural dealers, hotels, auto dealers, general stores, newspapers, cafes, and grocery stores
- TOWN-RESIDENTIAL: Single family dwellings, high-rise apartment blocks
- RURAL-RESIDENTIAL: Farm houses
- INDUSTRIAL: Utility buildings (electrical, water, telephone) and private manufacturing warehouses
- ENGINEERING: Rail bridges, highway bridges, dams, and tunnels
- AGRICULTURAL: Cattle barns, horse barns, hog barns, hog fences, cattle fences, cellars, cob houses, orchards, windmills, windbreaks, pump systems, cattle loafing sheds, hog loafing sheds, farrowing houses, corn cribs, wash houses, summer kitchens, chicken houses, brooder houses, machine shops, implement sheds, granaries, silos, elevators, and stock tank systems

- TRANSPORTATION: Depots, garages, gas stations, auto dealerships, and roundhouses
- PUBLIC BUILDINGS: Elementary and high schools, post offices, libraries, park structures, courthouses, hospitals, and township halls

## **6. Evaluation Process and Criteria**

### **Process Of Evaluation:**

Two primary reasons exist for the evaluation of the resources documented by the Historic Buildings survey. The first is the identification of properties worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and the second is the designation of those properties to be preserved by local planning processes. The National Register criterion A, B, C, and D as translated by the Historic Context Reports shall be the basis for evaluation.

The Preliminary Inventory is the primary reference list of all properties within Stanton County that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Therefore, its primary purpose is to define the entire "pool" of historic resources which appear potentially eligible for listing.

The Preliminary Inventory also fulfills additional roles which include its use as a guide for suggesting future work in the study area and the identification of building types which are no longer extant or never existed within the study area. The analysis of the inventoried data may also provide the NeSHPO with answers to the following questions:

1. What percentage of the total number of sites surveyed were worthy of intensive survey on the basis of their association to an identified historic theme or to a preliminarily identified Historic Context?
2. What percentage of the total number of sites surveyed were worthy of intensive survey as non-historic context sites?
3. What percentage of those sites **noted during the field survey** as potentially significant were actually found to be significant for:

- a. Historic context sites?
- b. Non-historic context sites?

Save America's Heritage originally viewed the assembling of the Preliminary Inventory as a two-step process consisting of survey and review. However, as outlined below, a refined methodology has evolved from previous survey experience which now involves several levels of evaluation. What has emerged is a more in-depth compilation of potential NRHP sites using a variety of historical and contemporary resources.

Initial base list of potentially eligible properties derived from review of reconnaissance survey documentation.

Review of contact sheets and site descriptions performed to add or delete base-list properties.

Land atlas research documenting historic chain of ownership (1891, 1911, 1925) for rural base-list properties.

Deed, mortgage, and mechanic's lien research performed on selected sites to develop list of original owners and historic typologies.

Review all published county, church, and centennial histories, with particular emphasis on historic building citations of base-list properties.

Contact local historical societies for input on histories of base-list properties.

Second base-list review with application of criterion to derive final lists of sites which:

- a) are strongly recommended for NRHP listing, and

- b) may not be strongly recommended for listing but contribute to the character of the historic built environment.

#### Criteria For Evaluation:

If the ultimate goal of the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey is indeed the identification of properties worthy of National Register listing, then the definitions and criteria established by the NRHP become the primary concepts by which the significance of a historic property is evaluated.

The National Register defines a historic property as a district, site, building, structure, or object significant in American history, architecture, engineering, archeology, and culture. A historic context is a broad pattern of historical development in a community or its region, that may be represented by historic resources. The use of historic contexts provides a mechanism for translating the broad National Register criteria into locally meaningful terms. For example, the National Register criteria allow any property that is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past to be regarded as eligible for listing, but it is the historic contexts of the area that define who such people were (p. 55, Nat. Reg. Bulletin, No. 24, V. 5, Dept. of the Interior). With this in mind, the National Register criteria translated into local meaning by the Historic Context Reports are as follows:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or



- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

## APPENDIX 2

### Supratype Master List of Stanton County House Types

#### Stanton County House Types

The listing of residential properties surveyed in Stanton County utilized the supratype method of description. As illustrated below, this list indicates a total of 60 core supratypes representing the 253 total residential properties documented within the county.

Each supratype is listed according to its five core descriptors which are found at the headings of each column. The core supratype number is found in the first column followed by the descriptors which are, respectively: core shape (SH), horizontal width in units (SZ), wall height in stories (HT), roof type (RF), orientation (OR). The total number of the supratype in Stanton County is found in the next column (#), followed by the percentage of that type within Stanton County (% ST).

<u>S.Type</u>	<u>SH</u>	<u>SZ#</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>RF</u>	<u>OR</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% ST</u>
S.1	I	1.0	1.5	H	N	1	.40
S.2	I	1.5	1.5	H	N	1	.40
S.3	L	.5	1.0	G	La	2	.79
S.4	L	0.5	1.0	G	Lo	2	.79
S.5	L	1.0	1.5	G	La	2	.79
S.6	L	1.0	1.5	G	Lo	7	2.76
S.7	L	1.5	1.5	G	Lo	1	.40
S.8	R	0.5	1.0	G	La	4	1.58
S.9	R	0.5	1.0	G	Lo	1	.40
S.10	R	0.5	1.5	G	La	4	1.58
S.11	R	0.5	1.5	G	Lo	1	.40
S.12	R	1.0	1.0	G	La	1	.40
S.13	R	1.0	1.0	G	Lo	6	2.37
S.14	R	1.0	1.0	GJ	La	1	.40
S.15	R	1.0	1.0	H	Lo	3	1.19
S.16	R	1.0	1.5	G	La	11	4.35
S.17	R	1.0	1.5	G	Lo	20	7.92
S.18	R	1.0	2.0	G	La	1	.40
S.19	R	1.5	1.0	G	La	20	7.92
S.20	R	1.5	1.0	G	Lo	18	7.11
S.21	R	1.5	1.0	GG	La	1	.40
S.22	R	1.5	1.0	GJ	Lo	4	1.58
S.23	R	1.5	1.0	H	La	1	.40
S.24	R	1.5	1.0	H	Lo	6	2.37

<u>S.Type</u>	<u>SH</u>	<u>SZ#</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>RF</u>	<u>OR</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% ST</u>
S.25	R	1.5	1.0	HT	Lo	2	.79
S.26	R	1.5	1.5	G	La	7	2.76
S.27	R	1.5	1.5	G	Lo	14	5.50
S.28	R	1.5	1.5	H	La	1	.40
S.29	R	1.5	2.0	G	La	4	1.58
S.30	R	1.5	2.0	H	La	2	.79
S.31	R	2.0	1.0	G	La	2	.79
S.32	R	2.0	1.0	G	Lo	1	.40
S.33	R	2.0	1.5	G	La	1	.40
S.34	R	2.0	1.5	G	Lo	3	1.19
S.35	R	2.0	1.5	GG	Lo	1	.40
S.36	R	2.0	2.0	G	La	1	.40
S.37	R	2.0	2.0	G	Lo	1	.40
S.38	R	2.0	2.0	H	La	1	.40
S.39	R	2.0	2.0	H	Lo	5	1.98
S.40	S	1.5	1.0	G	La	1	.40
S.41	S	1.5	1.0	GJ	Lo	1	.40
S.42	S	1.5	1.0	H	N	8	3.16
S.43	S	1.5	1.0	HT	N	1	.40
S.44	S	1.5	1.0	G	La	1	.40
S.45	S	1.5	1.5	H	N	5	1.98
S.46	S	1.5	1.5	HT	N	4	1.58
S.47	S	1.5	2.0	H	N	1	.40
S.48	S	2.0	1.0	G	La	2	.79
S.49	S	2.0	1.5	H	N	3	1.19
S.50	S	2.0	2.0	G	La	2	.79
S.51	S	2.0	2.0	H	N	36	14.23
S.52	S	2.0	2.0	HT	N	4	1.58
S.53	T	0.5	1.0	G	La	1	.40
S.54	T	0.5	1.5	G	La	1	.40
S.55	T	0.5	1.5	G	Lo	2	.79
S.56	T	1.0	1.0	G	Lo	1	.40
S.57	T	1.0	1.0	H	La	1	.40
S.58	T	1.0	1.5	G	La	3	1.19
S.59	T	1.0	1.5	G	Lo	9	3.56
S.60	T	1.5	1.5	GG	La	1	.40

## APPENDIX 3

### Index of Abbreviations

The following index attempts to explain the abbreviations used by the survey team while recording historic buildings in the eight-county area of the Northeast Nebraska survey project. These abbreviations were developed as a means of expediting the survey recording process. The need for abbreviations was especially necessary in the recording of rural-based historic properties. In these cases, every effort was made to note each building, structure, and object which contributed to the historic character of the property. Many of the abbreviations were developed by the NeSHPO during their former surveys of historic buildings throughout Nebraska. The remaining group of abbreviations were developed by Save America's Heritage with the approval of the NeSHPO. It should be mentioned that these abbreviations were used extensively and were transferred from field notes to the history cards with the approval of the NeSHPO.

Fr.	= Frame	Addn.	= Addition
Br.	= Brick	Cent.	= Central
Conc. blk.	= Concrete block	Enc.	= Enclosed
Frmhse.	= Farmhouse	Att.	= Attached
Frmstd.	= Farmstead	Perpend.	= Perpendicular
Hse.	= House	Symm.	= Symmetrical
S.K.	= Summer kitchen	Lg.	= Large
Ckn. hse.	= Chicken house	G.W.D.	= Gable wall dormer
Gar.	= Garage	E.G.W.D.	= Entry gable wall dormer
Gran.	= Granary	Gab.	= Gable
Carr. barn	= Carriage barn	Drmr.	= Dormer
D.T. gran.	= Drive-thru granary	Outbldg.	= Outbuilding
D.T. crib	= Drive-thru crib	Aban.	= Abandoned
L.S.	= Loafing shed	Det.	= Deteriorated

Hd. hse. = Head house  
W.W. fence = Woven wire fence  
Bd. fence = Board fence  
Fdn. = Foundation  
Rf. = Roof  
Chim. = Chimney

N.C. = Non-contributing  
P.O. = Present owner  
Orig. = Original  
Cem. = Cemetery  
Orn. = Ornamental

